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Druids, love and the total eclipse page 46

Top independent school abandons new-look A levels

BY JOHN O'LEARY EDUCATION EDITOR

ONE of Britain's leading independent schools has told parents that it in-tends to abandon A levels, just two days before the Government announces a controversial reform of the sixth-form curriculum.

Sevenoaks School in Kent, the top co-educational school in last year's Times examination tables, is to offer only the International Baccalaureate (18) to new entrants from next year. Tommy Cookson, the Headmaster, said the qualification had proved to be a better "yardstick of excellence" than A level.

Sevenoaks's decision will be an embarrassment for ministers at a time when their A-level reforms are certain to face criticism from left and right. Baroness Blackstone, the Education Minister, is to confirm tomorrow plans to offer five subjects in the sixth form, and new courses in the "key skills" of information technology, communication. numeracy and

The package will clear the way for the spread of modular A levels which examine students at up to six stages during their course — while guaranteeing a traditionally-examined alternative in all subjects.

Traditionalists believe that the changes will sacrifice depth for breadth of study, while the progressive lobby argues that the changes do too little to encourage students to and vocational subjects.

The IB, which Sevenoaks has of-

fered as an alternative to A levels since 1977, requires candidates to take six subjects from different areas of the curriculum, three of which are pursued to Higher Level. Students also take a course on the theory of knowledge, are separately asssed on creativity, action and service, and have to write a 4,000-word extended essay

Designed in the 1960s as an international qualification, the IB is now taken by 35.000 students a year in 100 countries. But its expansion has been limited in Britain, partly because of parents' perceived preference for A levels and the cost of offering more than one type of academic oualification.

Sevenoaks decided to drop A levels when, for the first time, those taking the IB represented a majority of the sixth-form. Mr Cookson said: "After 20 years of running IB courses in parallel with A level, we now have decided to opt for what we consider the better alternative. With the future shape of A levels under review, we have chosen to adhere to a known yardstick of excellence."

Pupils already at the school, where boarding fees are £14,000 a year, will continue to be offered A level. But Graham Lacey, the head of sixth-form, said the courses could be phased out before 2005 if demand dried up as expected.

In a letter to parents, Mr Cookson said that earlier fears that the IB would be unacceptable to medical schools and leading universities had been overcome. Of the school's 40 places at Oxford and Cambridge

last year, 24 went to IB candidates.
The school believes that the IB differentiates more clearly between the many sixth-formers who would achieve three top-grade A levels. In the past ten years, only two IB candi-dates have achieved the maximum 45 points.

Other independent schools are also worried by the direction of A-level reforms. James Sabben-Clare, the Headmaster of Winchester College, has already said that his school might consider switching to the IB if

the changes prove unsatisfactory.

Mr Sabben-Clare, the chairman of the Headmasters' and Headmistresses' Conference which represents the leading 230 independent schools, was worried that continued grade inflation at A level would devalue the results of high achievers.

And Professor Alan Smithers, the head of Liverpool University's Centre for Education and Employment Research, said that other selective schools might follow suit. "I think the Government was wise to be cautious in its reform, but it is good for schools to have another option. It helps to keep all qualifications up to

Ministers take cover, page 4



Blair opposes pay-offs for eurocrats

By Philip Webster and Charles Bremner

NO European Commissioner found guilty of fraud or misconduct should receive a payoff. Tony Blair and William Hague agreed yesterday.

Outgoing Commissioners could receive payouts worth as much as £300,000, but the Tory leader said that the monshould not go to those 'forced to resign in disgrace". And the Prime Minister told MPs: "In respect of the pay-

offs, of course, if someone is guilty of fraud or misconduct. those will not apply." The Government also welcomed Jacques Santer's decision to abandon his light to stay in office. In a statement,

the 20 Commissioners said: "We have resigned and have no desire or intention of remaining in office a moment longer than we have to." It called for the appointment

of a new executive "without delay" and said it would carry on running basic EU business un-Mr Blair, who spoke to sev-

eral EU leaders yesterday about the appointment of Mr Santer's successor, wants the choice to be made as swiftly as possible. There is certain to be lengthy discussion at next week's Berlin summit and the appointment could come at an informal gathering of EU leaders soon afterwards.

But two of the rumoured candidates vesterday ruled themselves out. Antonio Guterres, the Portugues Prime Minister who is said to be backed by Mr Blair, said he "totally unavailable".

Wim Kok, the Dutch Prime Minister, said he did not want the job and favoured a southern candidate.

This strengthened speculation over Romano Prodi, the former Italian Prime Minister. Javier Solana, the Spanish chief of Nato, said he was too busy to think about an EU iob

Mr Blair was also forced to deflect a combined and unprecedented call from Tony Benn and John Major for the appointment of British Commissioners to be approved by Par-

Mr Hague took up the case in Question Time, suggesting that this was an appropriate time to change existing proce-dures and allow the Commons a say. But Mr Blair said that the existing system was the

In yesterday's confusion over how to redeem the EU executive, several Commissioners made clear that they expected to stay on in a new interim administration, possibly as President.

A potential in-house saviour emerged in the shape of Karel van Miert, the Belgian Commissioner, who appeared to out himself forward as a candidate when he replaced Mr Santer as chief damage controller for the Commissioners.

Mr van Miert, a widely respected figure, joined a chorus of Commissioners airing their anger over being forced to carry a collective can for the failures of Mr Santer and Edith Cresson, the French Commis-

The great majority of my colleagues were convinced that Cresson should have been the subject for debate, and not the resignation of all of us," he

The Liberal group, the third force in the EU Parliament, called last night for Sir Leon Brittan, the British Commis sion vice-president, to be given the post of caretaker president immediately. His mandate should be "to clean up the toilet" of the EU executive, according to Bo Jensen, the Liberal secretary-general.

While London pressed for emergency action, Bonn, Paris and other capitals made clear the complex procedure for putting in place even an interim team could take weeks.

A consensus seems to have emerged among the EU governments on the need for a fully empowered interim Commission, which would hold office until January, when a new team is due to start a five-year term. The thinking is that the president of this Commission could then carry on in office, along with much of the outgoing team.

Meanwhile, the the chaos in Brussels deepened with the start of a strike by staff at the Council of Ministers over what they see as the crooked way in which national civil servants are being given posts in the EU bureaucracy.

EU in crisis, pages 15-17 Anatole Kaletsky, page 24 Diary, page 24 Leading article, page 25



The Queen Mother discussing the chances of her horse Easter Ross with the jockey Mick Fitzgerald at Cheltenham yesterday. He fell at the second fence. Earlier, Fitzgerald won the Queen Mother Champion Chase on Call Equiname. Reports, pages 52, 53

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BODY & MIND.....

BUSINESS.



Dunblane policewomen | Weary balloonists seek £800,000 damages

BY SHIRLEY ENGLISH

TWO policewomen who claim they suffered psychological trauma after the Dunblane massacre are suing their force for £400,000 each.

The women allege that they were denied adequate counselling after the shootings four years ago when 16 primary schoolchildren and their teacher died. Writs were served last week on Chief Constable William Wilson of Central Scot-land Police and the claims will be lodged with the Court of Session in Edinburgh.

But families of the children who died, community leaders and police reacted with anger to the claims, which far exceed the compensation paid to relatives of the victims. John Maclaren, whose five-year-old granddaughter Megan Turner was killed by Thomas Ham-ilton, said: These officers were just doing their job. 1 would imagine that for anyone who was in the gym it would have been just awful, a

horrendous experience, but what about the rest of us? I lost my granddaughter. You just have to get on with your life." Charlie Clydesdale, 42, who

lost his daughter Victoria and had to identify her body yet has been denied compensation by the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board, said: "How can they justify this? I lost a child. I had to identify my own wee girl just after it happened. So if I cannot get compensation for the things I have suffered, how on earth can two police officers who stood outside the school gates have the right to ask for nearly half a million

Ian Watson, a solicitor for the policewomen, aged 26 and 30, said that both had played a 'significant role" in policing the tragedy, arriving at the school almost immediately after the killings. One was posted at the school gates to deal

with frantic parents and both were later sent to the gymnasium where the dead and injured were being identified.

It is understood that afterwards they were given an hour of counselling and sent back to work. One has retired on medical grounds and the other is on sick leave. Central Scotland Police de-

clined to comment on the writs, but a number of officers privately condemned claims, saying they had agreed not to seek damages in view of the far greater trauma suffered by relatives.

The controversy echoes that surrounding the Hillsborough aster, which saw 14 South Yorkshire policemen awarded £1.2 million for psychiatric damage. Five law lords later blocked payments to other officers, saying it was unlair for them to receive compensation when some of the bereaved received nothing.

heading home

By HELEN RUMBELOW

THE British and Swiss pilots who are the closest in history to flying around the world in a balloon are racing towards the finish line with dwindling fuel and heat.

Brian Jones, 51, was said to he mentally and physically exhausted as the Breitling Orbiter 3 flew over Belize last night. in its 17th day and completing its 20,000th mile.

He and Bertrand Piccard. 41, must cross the same longitude twice to win the \$1 million prize offered by Anheuser Busch, the makers of Budweiser beer. But of far greater importance is achieving the last

great aviation challenge. On current weather predictions they hope to reach this latitude, 9.27 degrees west, some-

where over north-west Africa at around 6pm on Saturday.

After breaking the long-distance record on Monday, the pair had to waste precious propane to dodge clouds over Mexico. Now they are finding it difficult to keep their spirits

up after the disappointment of hitting slow wind yesterday. Today they plan to cruise at 34,000ft over Jamaica, Haiti, and the Dominican Republic, before their last great hurdle. the Atlantic, on Friday. They aim to hit a fast jet stream that will speed them along at 85mph, but they cannot afford

any deviation or bad weather. Both have colds, neither is sleeping or eating well, and yesterday one of the balloon's heaters broke down. They were trying to "hang tough" for the next three days, said Mr Jones's wife, Joanna, at the control centre in Geneva.

Private hospital inquiry to curb health scandals

By JILL SHERMAN, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

MEDICAL standards in Britain's 300 private hospitals are to be investigated and moni-tored for the first time under a Government proposal to stop health scandals.

Frank Dobson, the Health Secretary, is planning to set up an independent inspectorate to regulate private hospitals and publish league tables comparing medical performance and

The public would be able to compare private hospitals against NHS hospitals to discover the best and worst treatment. They may also get access to information about individual doctors who work both in the NHS and the private sec-

The health department will shortly publish a consultation paper with options for regulating care in the independent sector, with legislation expected

next year. The move follows medical scandals in both the NHS and the private sector. Last September Robert Ledward, a gynae-cologist, was struck off the medical register after being ac-cused of injuring 400 women under his care in both private and NHS hospitals.In a separate case, Hadassa Carmon was given the all clear three times by BUPA breast screening at Gatwick Park in 1992. but later developed cancer. She won £143,000 in an out-ofcourt settlement. The case is being considered by the all-party Commons Health Committee which is taking evidence on whether independent health

care should be regulated.

About 800,000 operations are performed annually in pri vate hospitals and more than 17.000 doctors do some private work. As many as 25 per cent of routine waiting list operations such as hip and knee replacements are performed pri-

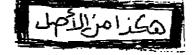
Twelve million people either have private health insurance or pay for treatment in private hospitals, but there is no regulation of medical standards. Under the 1984 Act covering

nursing homes, health authori Continued on page 2, col 5

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Blair gets twisters in a nick as Prescott adopts sign language

the strain showed: the Mime Prinister stumbled into a series of slerbal vips. I blame

At first we thought he had lapsed into Latin. Answering the first question (from a Tory: about the Budget) an animated Mr Blair insisted there had been "nem cat tucks".

Amid a general scratching of beads, he took another run. "Net tax cuts," Blair explained.

lony Tair must be under pressure. In the Couse of Hommons

Some of us preferred the first version. A Budget with cat tucks sounds fun. The PM's aware how much worse, Blair speechwriters made a mental note: avoid fast buck or fiscal luck in the future texts.

Blair was recovering from this tumble when he slipped By now the affliction was spreading. So keen was Geraint Davies (Lab, Croydon again. Asked about the mur-Central) to get the French "on" der in Northern Ireland of Rosemary Nelson, the Prime sound into his pronounciation of Santer that he leapt for-Minister declared that no efward with a question about fort would be spared in the hint for her . . . and he stopped Jock Santer. just short of kullers, and got back on track: hunt for the kill-

to correct.

MPs giggled. Has a new mood of Presbyterian thrift

did not try a second version. but left the 'hint' for Hansard

MATTHEW PARRIS **POLITICAL SKETCH**

overtaken Brussels already? Who next in the Celtic onslaught? Liam Brittan?

The House was distracted from its fit of Spoonerism by Paddy Ashdown who told Blair that now Jock - sorry, Jacques - had gone, what was lacking was leadership. No organisation should be

left "leaderless". How true. It must be dreadful to be part of a gang whose leader is standing down, with confusion reigning about who will take over. It creates a vacuum.

Tories pointed fingers at Mr Ashdown and squealed "You! You!" Were they recommending him for the CommisBy now Mr Blair was lim-

bering up for his next spat with the English language. Invited by Ken Purchase (Lab. Wolverhampton NE) to offer some thoughts on pover-ty and housing benefit, the Prime Minister wanted to tell us that many people were com-ing into "the Labour market".

Unfortunately he said "the Labour Party", from which there has been a notable egress since the election. He

John Wilkinson (C. Ruislip Northwood) told Blair of his concern that the tax burden on the self-employed had been increased. Blair, insisting there had been tax cuts not tax bikes, managed to avoid "cat tucks not hax tikes" but stumbled over "entry fee" and said "enty free" instead. This may explain the conflict between Mr Blair and William Hague about whether

sion Presidency - replacing failed to correct this one, too. what we pay to the Exchequer Jock with Paddy?

And never corrected his is rising or falling. Fee and all, as Cherie will remind him.

John Prescott, himself no stranger to the verbal tangle managed to say more, vesterday — without speaking. The suntanned Deputy Prime Minister fresh back (said William Hague) from "chasing angel fish around a coral reel in the Maldives, started the session with a V-sign at the Tory front beach. Hard to mis-



Curry: fell out with

Loyalists blamed for latest killing

By MARTIN FLETCHER

NORTHERN Ireland suffered its second paramilitary murder in three days yesterday when a prominent loyalist was shot dead in the heart of Belfast's Protestant Shankill Road area.

Police said Frankie Curry, 46, a former Red Hand Commando leader who had fallen out with mainstream loyalism, was almost certainly killed by fellow loyalists and not by republicans retaliating for Monday's car-bomb murder of Rosemary Nelson.

ers, the loyalist splinter group which claimed responsibility for Mrs Nelson's death, blamed the Ulster Volunteer Force. It threatened retaliation, though it denied Curry was an RHD member.

The Red Hand Defend-



FROM DAMIAN WHITWORTH IN WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT CLINTON was putting pressure on Northern Ireland leaders last night to break the deadlock over de-commissioning of terrorist arms and push the peace process forward.

In separate meetings at the White House with David Trimble, the First Minister and Ulster Unionist leader, and Gerry Adams, president of Sinn Fein, the President was seeking to persuade them to overcome their differences even as each reiterated that disarming the IRA was still the major sticking point.

Mr Trimble said the IRA's refusal to begin disarming prevented Sinn Fein from taking part in the power-sharing execurive to run the Province. But he insisted that the republicans could ensure that the IRA began disarming.
"It is not a question of wheth-

er, but a question of when," he said before his St Patrick's Day meeting at the Oval Office. He said he remained confident that the peace process was not in danger. "I think it is going to work.

We have big problems in the short term with the paramilitaries, but there is no alternative. Even if we get stalled I think it will only be temporary," he said.

However, Mr Adams ruled out an IRA handover of weapons. "The demands he is making of me? I can't deliver those. He knows that. You know



President Clinton talking to Bertie Ahern yesterday

that. Everybody knows that." to focus on "encouragement, He added: "The President not negotiations," and Mr Trimknows as well as Mr Trimble ble said he expected Mr Clinton that IRA (arms) decommission-ing is not a precondition for But he added that he believed Sinn Fein to hold ministerial

His comments contrasted visa he had granted to Mr Adsharply with those of Mo Mow- ams in 1995 which helped to get lam, the Northern Ireland Secretary, who said on Tuesday that republicans and unionists were within a " hair's breadth" of reaching a solution on the stalled peace process. Mr Ad-ams said that the car-bomb killing of Rosemary Nelson, the prominent Catholic human rights lawyer, had worsened

The situation here in Washington has been overshadowed by this killing. When I left to come here the sense of crisis had been deepened."

The White House said the

day of meetings was intended

"the President has some fa-

the peace process moving. The Government has given the parties until Good Friday to break the impasse or face the

vours to call in," referring to the

collapse of the peace process.

President Clinton gave warning that "enemies of peace are still rearing their heads in the Northern Ireland peace process" and he encouraged all those involved to lift their sights above the short-term difficulties. "They must see the distant horizon when children will grow up in Northern Ireland and not even remember how it used to be."

Speaking in the White House

rose garden after Bertie Ahern, the Irish Prime Minister, had presented him with a bowl of shamrocks, he said that both sides must work together to implement the Good

Friday accord. The parties must resolve their differences and to do that they have to have the same spirit of co-operation and trust that led to the first agree-

Earlier all sides had attended the annual St Patrick's Day lunch hosted by the Speaker on Capitol Hill. An American-Ireland fund dinner in honour of Senator Ted Kennedy on Tuesday night had been notable for the way that a point was made of welcoming frish Unionists.

"It is often forgotten that more than half of the 44 mil-lion Americans of Irish descent are Protestant. To the Unionists in Northern Ireland we say that we are your brothers and sisters, not your enemies. The vast majority of Irish Catholics in America bear you no illwill. Our hope is that as your ancestors did for America, you will help to lead the way to peace in Northern Ireland," Mr Kennedy said.

George Mitchell, the former Senator who chaired the peace talks, added: "We must be understanding, we must be patient, we must be tolerant, but we must also be insistent as we say to those leaders: You have done much, but you must do more'."

Books, page 42



The statue of Queen Victoria is given appropriate St Patrick's Day headgear in Belfast yesterday

NEWS IN BRIEF Record of railways is much worse'

One in five trains is cancelled or seriously delayed on some of Britain's busiest routes, according to new figures by passenger groups that suggest dis-ruption is far more widespread than previously thought More than 500,000 trains were cancelled or seriously delayed in 1998, suggesting that one journey in ten is disrupted. On long-distance routes, such as Virgin's West Coast and Cross Country lines, and Great Western, the proportion rises to more than one in five.

The disclosure is included in statistics that show, for the first time, the state of the rail ways across all services, rather than those selected for official figures. Government figures are based mainly on peak-time journeys.

Bad books

The public spending watch-dog has exposed the poor quality of accounting in Government departments in a report to MPs. A fifth of all departments could not even manage to complete their annual accounts on time last year - yet five years ago just 1 per cent handed in late accounts.

Arson accused

A man will appear in a London court today charged with the unurder of seven members of a family in an arson attack on a house in Chingford, Essex, last week. Scotland Yard detectives have ordered tight security around the identity of the man until he appears in court for fear of reprisals.

Jail gun find

Police were last night investigating bow a handgun, ammunition and flak jacket were dumped outside a big London jail. The badly corroded weapon and other equipment were found on land between the perimeter fence and road outside Wormwood Scrubs prison in West London.

Terror extension

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Anti-terrorist detectives were granted another 48 hours to continue questioning the Mus-lim cleric Abu Hamza al-Masri and two other men arrested on Monday in dawn raids in west Londonfollowing allegations by Yemen of involvement in the kidnap of 40 West-

Two trapped

Two eco-campaigners in tun-nels under the old Crystal Palace site in South London are at the centre of a rescue operation after becoming trapped. The chamber in which Animal - Ellenor Hutson, 18, ÷ and Ken have been living for 14 days has subsided, leaving the metal gate impassable.

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Straw demands action over passport chaos

By Richard Ford, home correspondent

JACK STRAW held crisis talks yesterday over the immigration department chaos that has led to hundreds of people being trapped in Britain.

The Home Secretary called in Siemens Business Services. the computer firm at the centre of the problem to demand an action plan within a week to deal with the delays, which have resulted from a mass of travel documents being lost.

Mr Straw acted after the immigration and nationality department admitted that the delays in dealing with travel documents would continue for several more months. Ministers had previously said the problems would be overcome by

Thousands of people, including international businessmen, foreigners living in the UK and people requiring work permits, have suffered months-long delays at the Immigration and Nationality Directorate at Croydon in south

London. Many have been told that their best option is to go to their own high commission or embassy to order new pass-

Mr Straw is furious at the delays and failures in implementing new working practices and in introducing a new computer system to deal with immigration and asylum applications.

The chaos at the directorate has been caused by the reloca-tion of 1,000 staff from Lunar House to an office in the nearby Whitgift Centre, and compounded by the new work practices and computer system. Officials have been forced to draft in extra staff to deal with up to 16,000 pieces of un-opened mail and additional facsimile machines have been installed as thousands of angry foreigners besiege the di-

rectorate seeking information about their travel documents. One Australian man, who sent his passport to the directo- Home Office.

indicate he would not burden the state. • A Japanese woman was unable to attend her grandpar-

ents' funerals because her passport has been lost since last September.
Mike O'Brien, the Immigra-tion Minister, who decided on

rate to renew his residency per-

mit, spent three weeks phon-

ing the centre before getting

through to an official. He was

then told that it could take

eight months to find his pass-

port, which was accompanied

by mortgage documents, refer-

ences and bank statements to

the "big bang" of moving offices, retraining staff and compu-terisation all at once, said that the £70 million computerisation contract awarded to Siemens Business Services in 1996 was unrealistic and over A spokeswoman for Sie-

mens Business Services refused to discuss the talks at the

Inquiry to halt hospital scandals

Continued from page 1

(del

have had powers to inspect private and state homes and independent hospitals.

But the focus has been on long term nursing care and there has been no assessment of private medical care. It does not cover invididual doctors and it does not have any appro-

The recent white paper on social services proposed 8 new regional commissions which would inspect nursing homes in both sectors but it will not apply to private acute hospitals. Mr Dobson is now considering setting up a separate inspectorate or commission to

cover this anomoly. Health department sources said the Government wanted to await the outcome of the select committee's report and its own consultation exercise before taking further action. "The government recognises the concern that exists regarding the regulatory framework

for hospitals and clinics in the private sector and we will shortly be consulting widely on future regulatory systems," said a spokesman. But the government has

been under mounting pressure from both the Tories and the private sector to extend reg-ulation. Tonight the Lords will debate a Conservative amendment to the NHS bill which scraps GP fundholding, calling for greater regulation of the private sector. The Tories want the Health Service Bill to extend clinical assessment from the NHS to the private

The Tories are pressing the government to expand the remit of the Commission for Health Improvement, which is being set up in the Bill. which will have the power to make spot checks on clinical procedures, to inspect and enter NHS hospitals and to carry out quality reviews.

Having defeated the Government on one admendment ear-

lier this week, the Tories are hoping for another victory. "At present patients using the private sector do not have the same safeguards of regulation that those who use the health service are entitled to," said a Tory spokesman.

BUPA. Britain's largest private health insurance company is also keen for a national inspectorate for the independent sector and supports the

publication of league tables. A spokeswoman for BUPA said that the company would call for greater regulation when it gives oral evidence to the health committee next Thursday. It argues that an insec-torate would also help root out poor standards in small private clinics set up by doctors to minor operations.

Ledward inquiry, page 8

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Prime Health

lates a hits at the

a day

24,000 films: a life in celluloid



store. The nearest cinemas is about 20 miles away and I don't drive, so it depends if a mate is going or not," he said. The last film I saw there was

> Gwilym Hughes with some of his film books. His favourite films include Gone With The Wind, above left, and Zulu. He said: "I want to be entertained" from an operation. He said: "It troduction of video players, his

has stayed with me all my life. I've never been bored and I still watch every film with great keenness. Once the titles start rolling, I'm completely hooked. I've seen more of life than most people even though I have not travelled very far.'

movies, not even The Exorcist. As a student he took time off Who wants to go to the cinema to see film of a girl vomiting, I between lectures to pop into ask you? I want to watch a film the local cinema and on one memorable day, recorded for posterity in his notebook, he to be entertained not be sickened by it. I don't like the way saw eight films in different cinhorror films these days are full emas in Coventry. In the 1970s, he was secreof death, destruction and nightmares." He has never seen a

film by Quentin Tarantino. tary of the Dolgellau Film Mr Hughes caught the film Club. Members would club tobug in hospital as a child gether to hire the latest art rebusiers, he has to wait until Mines while recuperating club folded shortly after the in-

hobby has become a solitary

He first won his place in The Guinness Book of Records when he heard someone say on the radio that it contained very few Welsh entries. National pride at stake, he went immediately to the local bookshop to browse through a copy. Knowing he was never likely to break the 100 metres record or find the world's biggest diamond, he turned straight to the section on cinema. There it recorded that Albert E. van Schmus, the American film censor from 1949 to Van Schimus may have watched 16,945 films.

Mr Hughes had a record of the 20,000 films he had seen in more than 100 notebooks and he took the American's place in the record book in 1992. His new record will appear in the next edition. He does not want to be crowned the King of the Couch Potatoes and says he has plenty of time in his life for other interests. He is a member of 12 local organisations, is an enthusiastic bowls player, and he finds time occasionally to join his wife. Eirlys, for an episode of EastEnders.

He was forced to give up work through ill-health 15 years ago, a legacy of hip problems he had as a child. He said: "I've spent around four years of my life in hospital so I ve also had a lot of time to watch films on television."



Lawrence of Arabia — "I love David Lean. To image of the war through his eyes. He was too me he was the master. To work in that temperature and to get so much remarkable footage; even the music was superb."

Gone with the Wind - That's a classic, isn't it, but there a sadness too, as the author died penniless. The scene that really gets me is where Vivien Leigh is running through an orchard and there's blossom everywhere."

Empire of the Sun — "There's a beautiful haunting Weish air in it, but I also like the lad's young to realise the danger."

Schindler's List — "It's beyond imagination how people could do such things to their fellow human beings. How Spielberg used the black-and-white and the colour film -- it's so

Zulu — "The Welsh Borderers" finest hour, Mr Morris, manager of the Dolgellau Plaza, wrote an open letter to the public urging them to see it because it's part of Welsh history.

BARRY NORMAN'S TWO YEARS IN FRONT OF THE SCREEN

they arrive in his local video

Saving Private Ryan, which

The retired painter and deco-

rator has an assured place in

The Guinness Book of Records. He expects to reach a

total of 25,000 by April next year. But he says: "I am an old-fashioned film fan, I don't

like all this violence and bad

language you get in the cine-

"I haven't seen any horror

was superb."

ma nowadays.

OF SOME 235,000 films made in the history of cinema, the critic Barry Norman claims to have seen more than 12,000 - the estimated equivalent of two years in a cinema (Dalya Alberge writes).

HE DOES not like horror, vio-

lence or bad language, so Gwilym Hughes's place in cin-

ema history is all the more im-

pressive. He has just watched

his 24,000th film, and nobody

It is getting harder for the greatest of all movie buffs to

see films as they were intend-

ed. He has kept notes on every

movie he has seen since the

age of seven, and for years he

visited the cinema at least ten

times a week, but since his lo-

cal fleapit closed in mid-

Wales, he has settled instead

for a black-and-white televi-

sion in a bedroom while his

wife watches soap operas on

the colour set downstairs.

avid film fan the luxury of dig-

ital, cable or widescreen televi-

sion. Mr Hughes, 53, cannot

even get Channel 5 on his portable and has to watch S4C, the

Welsh language version of Channel 4. These drawbacks have not stopped him watch

ing at least 18 films a week, though, for the latest block-

Not for the world's most

in the world can beat that.

James Ferman, the former director of the British Board of Film Classification, has no idea of his record and "couldn't begin to estimate", but Sir Sydney Samuelson, the first British Film Commissioner, who is now senior consultant to the British Film Commission, believes he has seen about 3.000. --

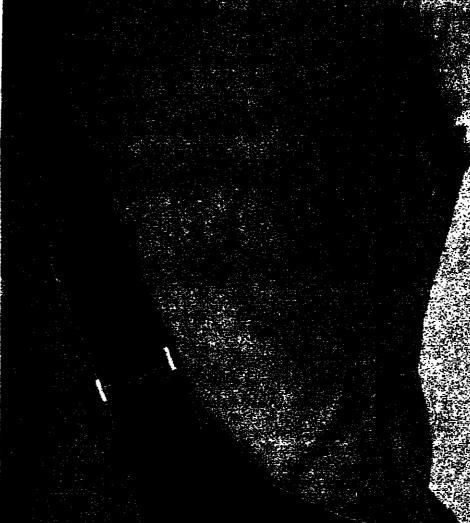
He saw some 600 in his first two years in the business. "I used to be cinema projectionist," he recalled. "That's how I started. When I was 14 I was a rewind boy at the local cinema, which showed six feature films a week. That means that I saw 300 a year - during my first year's work, when I was 14 and 15. that means I saw 600." He has never count-

ed the films and can only estimate the total. He picks out as a favourite David Lean's Lawrence of Arabia, "which I think is cinema at its very best?. He said: "David Lean was the greatest storyteller of cinema of all time." Another favourite is Cinema Paradiso, which is "exactly like my own story".

Among films he has most disliked is Reser-

voir Dogs. "Some say it is a most brilliant, outstanding movie. I just thought it shouldn't be shown. I'm old-fashioned on these things, but, when I pick out the worst, I mean the worst expience for me. I can't

The critic David Robinson, whose career began some 40 years ago, said he must have averaged 250 a year. "I put it conservatively at 10,000 - and I don't remember them all. The awful ones I've forgotten and the brilliant ones are too numerous to pick out."



Morris and Noakes make a comeback with the animals

By CAROL MIDGLEY MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

TWO veterans from the golden age of BBC children's television are to make a come-back on ITV. Johnny Morris, the Animal Magic presenter with the zoo animal "voices", and the Blue Peter star John Noakes, famed for his Border Collie, Shep, are to feature in new animal shows. ITV is also to screen a mod-

ern version of The Family, the first fly-on-the-wall "docusoup in 1974 it was the Wilkins family of Reading. Next month it will be the hum of the Henrys, a mixed race family from Leeds chosen to embody the "quintessential British family of the late

Morris, 82, will revive his animai characters in a new series, Wild Thing, on children's IIV. Speaking from his farm home in Berkshire, he said: "My sort of stuff is dead and buried, but they have found a lot of children like that sort of thing. Many mothers who were children when I was prenud come no no me and ask why they don't get more of



Morris and a young friend appearing in Animal Magic

my sort of programme, which was non-violent, amusing, informative and gentle. There is so much violence, and children need the comfort of an arm around their shoulder and to be reassured everything is all right."

Morris is no fan of current animal programming. In the past he has called Pets Win Prizes "disgusting" and Animai Hospital and the Channel 4 show Pet Rescue "exploitative". Noakes, 65, who admit-

ted to crying when Shep died, will front Mad About Pets. an animal roadshow that aims to find the most talented, extraordinary and pampered pets. Noakes has not been seen

regularly on our screens since Coast To Coast, broadcast seven years ago, which was about his voyages on the boat on which he lives in Spain. But his voice has been heard on the Andrex lavatory paper

A spokeswoman for LWT, makers of Mad About Pets, said: "He was the first person who came to mind for the job. Everyone knows him from having Shep and how much he loves animals."

For the series, about the Henrys, Family Life, television crews spent eight months living with them. The Henrys pects of modern family life divorce, illegitimacy, aspira-tion and academic success. Twenty five years ago, the

nation was scandalised by Margaret and Terry Wilkins allowing their daughter, Marion, to live with Tom the lodger under their roof. Their younger daughter also raised ebrows by bringing home a black boyfriend. Margaret and Terry later di-

vorced, Marion left Tom and

her second husband and re-

married, and Heather went on to bring up four children. The producers of ITV's new offering claim their series will chart the dramatic social changes in Britain over the past 40 years. Kay and Alf Henry, who live on the Seaforth council estate in Leeds, have been married for 37 years. Mr Henry came to Britain in 1956 from St Kitts and met Kay at a time when mixed race relationships were taboo. She went into labour on the

day of their wedding. Ben Gale, series producer. said his team had spent more than three months trying to find the right family to represent modern Britain. "We didn't go out to find a mixed race family but when we met them we knew they really did reflect British life now."

Family Life, which will be broadcast on ITV in April, was unveiled at the launch of the network's new spring and summer schedule.



Ministers take cover as A-level reform arrives

John O'Leary says reform by stealth has already lessened the currency of 'gold standard'

THE changes in the sixth-form curriculum to be announced tomorrow are being billed as the biggest since A levels were introduced but the announcement will have all the razzmatazz given to a rise in

the unemployment figures.

In contrast to this week's mathematics initiative, there will be no sign of the Prime Minister, no celebrity cheerleaders. The news is to be released on the day normally de-voted to ministerial visits to constituencies and spin-doctors will be hoping that a criti-cal report on Hackney education authority will distract ing pupils to take mini-exams

The explanation for this low profile is that the Government expects brickbats from all sides. Traditionalists will claim that the move to five subjects in the sixth-form amounts to "dumbing down": progressives will argue that the reforms do not go far enough; and schools will complain of the added pressure on their budgets and timetables.

In reality, A level has been reformed by stealth over more than a decade. The gradual

s they complete each section of the course, has changed the 'gold standard" beyond recognition. Pass rates have soared and competition for the best grades has seen the rise of "soft" subjects such as media studies and sport, with an ac-

tional subjects such as classics. The impact of the latest reform, which will guarantee traditional syllabuses in all subjects, is likely to be much less than the drift that has gone before. Most schools will wait to

fore they plan upheaval. Their in the best universities will continue to award places on the basis of A levels, ignoring the new tests of "key skills" and the revamped AS levels.

Baroness Blackstone's reform, like many similar proposals before it, is intended to encourage greater breadth of study. But the package is a compromise born of lengthy negotiations with Downing Street. She had hoped to move further towards the baccalaureate model, requiring students

types of subject, mixing the oil and water of arts and sciences. Unlike the International Baccalaureate, which Sevenoaks School in Kent is adopting to the eventual exclusion of A levels, the new model will leave schools to decide how broad a range of subjects is studied. Students may take five, or, more likely, four, arts or science subjects if they

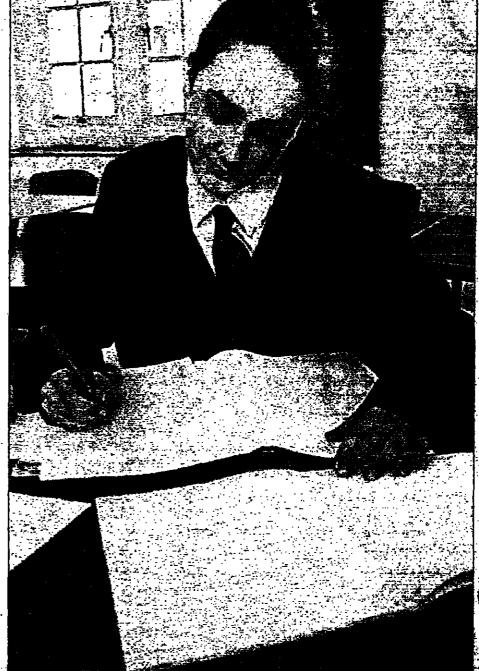
wish, thereby postponing a de-

cision on specialisation rather

than adding breadth. The one-year AS level will be welcomed by most schools as a more manageable way to teach extra courses than the previous two-year format. Heads remain to be convinced that universities will give full credit for the new examination but, like the results of modular tests taken during an A-level course, it will provide hard evidence of achievement for university applicants.

However, it remains to be seen whether schools and colleges will be able to go into the same degree of depth while fitting in more academic subjects and adding courses on the key skills of information technology, numeracy and communication. If highly academic schools decide that the A-level currency is being devalued. Sevenoaks may not be the last to look for an alternative.

Leading article, page 25



New challenge: Amy Nolan studying baccalaureate papers at Sevenoaks School

A TALE OF TWO EXAMINATIONS

INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE

Established: 1962 as an international qualification in 20 schools. Devised by Unesco-sponsored educationists. Candidates: more than 35,000 in 770 schools in 95 countries.

Reforms: none.

- Structure: six subjects from different areas of the curriculum, three taken to advanced level with one extended essay; separate course on the theory of knowledge, plus creativity, action and service requirement. Up to 20 per cent coursework, but single examinations in
- Assessment maximum of 45 points (seven per subject. plus three for theory of knowledge and essay).
- Sample history question: "Account for the flux in relations between the superpowers between 1953 and 1963."
- Oddity: exams are taken simultaneously throughout the world, leading to 10pm start times in Hong Kong.

■ Established: 1951. Replaced Higher School Certificate for 40,000 teenagers.

Candidates: more than 250,000 in Britain alone in 1998. ■ Reforms: Schools Council proposals in 1966 for major and minor subjects, plus general studies, rejected. Two-year AS level introduced 1984 to broaden curriculum.

In 1988 proposal for five "leaner, tougher" A levels rejected. E Structure six modules over two years, or traditional single examination. New system will encourage five subjects in first year, three to A level, plus "key skills" of information technology, numeracy and commu

Assessment maximum ten points per A level; maximum of five per AS level; tariff for key skills to be determined. Sample history question: "When and for what reasons did the peace settlements of 1919-23 begin to break down? ■ Oddity: general studies has seen biggest increase in candidates, but is still not accepted by many universities.

GUARANTEES to rule on **Pinochet**

next week BY FRANCES GIBB LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

GENERAL Augusto Pinochet will learn next week if he can. go home or must remain in England to face possible extra-dition to Spain on alleged hu-

man rights abuses. The House of Lords confirmed yesterday that the law lords led by Sir Nicolas Browne-Wilkinson will give their final ruling next Wedneser the former Chilean dictator is immune

Law lords To Russia, with love from MoD

THE Ministry of Defence is

investing more than £5 million to help thousands of officers to switch from military careers to civilian employment — but they are all Russian of-

After success in finding civilian jobs for British military personnel made redundant or who retired early because of the post-Cold War cutbacks. the MoD has been offering its services to Moscow.

Yesterday another 40 retiring Russian officers completed their three-month resettle-MoD. The special deal for re-tiring Russian officers is part end of the Cold War - the MoD has moved in to show the redundant officers how to become bank managers, computer programmers, and even

Yesterday the MoD said that, by March 2000, ministry experts would have retrained about 7,000 Russian officers. To help to focus their ef-

forts, the ministry men have been operating projects in seven towns across Russia — St Petersburg, Scholkovo, Kronstadt, Nizhniy Novgorod, Ros-The MoD is also funding

English language courses for Russian officers at the English language schools of the British Council in Central Moscow and St Petersburg. Yesterday's graduation of the latest batch of retired offic-

from arrest and prosecution. of the Government's defence The panel of seven law lords will decide whether his status diplomacy project, under as a former head of state enwhich every effort is made by the British military to imdows him with sovereign immunity from extradition over prove relations with their abuses including torture, atcounterparts in Russia. tempted murder and murder With the Russian Armed ers took place at the Scholko committed between 1972 and Forces undergoing drastic revo professional lycée on the forms - also because of the outskirts of Moscow. No Gimmicks, No Games, NATIONAL RATES 50 AUSTRIA 10p Just simple CHINA 350 savings on your phone bill. Pay monthly by Direct Debit or Pre-Pay No need to change your phone or phone number What would you expect from the fastest

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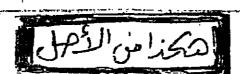
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in a telephone box in Romiley,

ries, interviewing boyfriends at length. Interpol inquiries

were made as far as Uganda.

Tokyo, Dubai and New York.

ted to the investigation which will mean a re-examination of

as many as 1,200 people. Mr

Smith said: "As we eliminate

people, we should be able to

get closer to the killer."

Five officers have been allot-

Greater Manchester.

THE TIMES THURSDAY MARCH 18 1999 200 men face DNA tests on 1983 murder

POLICE are to conduct DNA tests on more than 200 men after reopening the files on a killing 15 years ago that became known as the "Beauty in the Bath morder. Detectives hope that advances in forensic technology will finally help them to solve the murder of Cynthia Bolshaw, a beautician to was left lying face down her bath, wearing only a necklace and earnings.

Prominent businessmen in the Chester area are among the men whose names appeared in the pocket diaries of the 50-year-old divorcée, stran-gled apparently after entertaining a lover. Results of the tests from mouth swabs will be checked against a genetic profile garnered from forensic science evidence that has lain undisturbed in a laboratory.
Superintendent David
Smith. of Merseyside Police,

said: "There has been a worried person out there. We want that person to look to his con-science and provide an explaention. This is not going to go

Mrs Bolshaw was a cosmet-



MoD

Businessmen are

on the list as detectives reopen case of strangled beautician, writes

Russell Jenkins

ics consultant at the Christian Dior counter at Browns, a department store in Chester. After work on Saturday, October 8, 1983, she drove home to The Wirral in her red Toyota Corolla, dropping off a friend in Nes-ton. She had spoken of spend-ing a quiet evening at home with a bottle of wine at her two-bedroom bungalow in Buffs Lane, a sought-after area of Heswall. She was due to spend Sunday with her newly married son, then a navigator based at RAF Bawtry, near Doncaster, and his young

It is thought that she cooked a supper of fish. At about 9pm, a schoolboy at a nearby bus stop noticed the curtains being drawn. At some point in the evening, she is believed to have entertained somebody in the house. Evidence suggested that she drank brandy and sherry with her visitor. Reports at the time suggested that she had sex shortly before being killed, but Mr Smith refused to confirm this.

When her sister and brother-in-law visited the following day, they discovered that the back door was open. Her work clothes were piled neatly on the bed. Mrs Bolshaw was lying dead in the bath. She had

Frau Zimmer apparently been dragged from the bedroom, where the killer had strangled her with his hands. The killer used her car to make his escape. It was dis-Bryan Bashful covered parked in an entrance to a field five miles away on the A540 to Chester. Five days later, some of her jewellery, in-cluding a 22-carat gold wish-A WORLD FIRST bone ring, was discovered wrapped in a nylon stocking At the time, detectives poured over 14 meticulous dia-

The Jellyatrics celebrate the 80th birthday of the famous Jelly Babies

Age Concern finds 'Jellyatric' sweets are not to its taste

BY HELEN JOHNSTONE

A SWEET designed to offer an amusing alternative to the Jelly Baby, which this year celebrates its 80th birthday, has been given a sour wel-

come by Age Concern.

Jellyatrics, as the name suggests, are based on elderly characters with walking sticks and Zimmer frames. More than a million of the sweets have been distributed to 3,000 shops this week, including Tesco and Jet petrol stations, ready to go on sale.

Lemon-flavoured Bill Bird wears a flat cap and runs a sanctuary for in-jured birds in Jellytown. Raspberry-flavoured Bryan Bashful is a retired professor who is never without his cardigan and needs a walking stick to get around. The orange Frau Zimmer, with her fondness for baking, is even less mobile, while her friend Olive Green is the fastest knitter in

Jellytown. Age Concern yesterday described Jellyatrics as "clichéd elderly characters" and criticised the makers for perpetuating stereotypes. A spokesman for the pensioners' pressure group said: "It's unfortunate they have to use stereotypes which do not represent the majority of 80-year-olds." Ashley Sims, who came up with

the Jellyatrics range after hearing on the radio that Jelly Babies were soon to celebrate their 80th birthday. claimed yesterday that, if Age Con-cern learnt something about the char-acters, it would not be offended.

Mr Sims, 27, from Duffield, Derbyshire, said: "I thought they were get-ting a bit old to be babies. It took me two days to think of the name before I registered it as a trademark. But the Jellyatries have taken two and a half years to develop."

Mr Sims, who also invented the upside-down map, had his idea turned down by several companies, including Jelly Babies maker Trebor Bassett, before finally agreeing a five-year contract with Barnac, of Peterborough. The former salesman is hoping to extend the idea to toy and crockery manufacturers. "I also have a firm that's interested in making Jellyatric toys. They would also make good characters for a television cartoon."

Mr Sims, who left school with one O-level before studying business at college, also plans to launch the world's first Afro-Caribbean sweet, a blackcurrant-flavoured Jamaican Jellyatric named Pastor Deakus.

Client wins claim against lawyers

BY FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

by a non-lawyer won a test ruling in the Court of Appeal

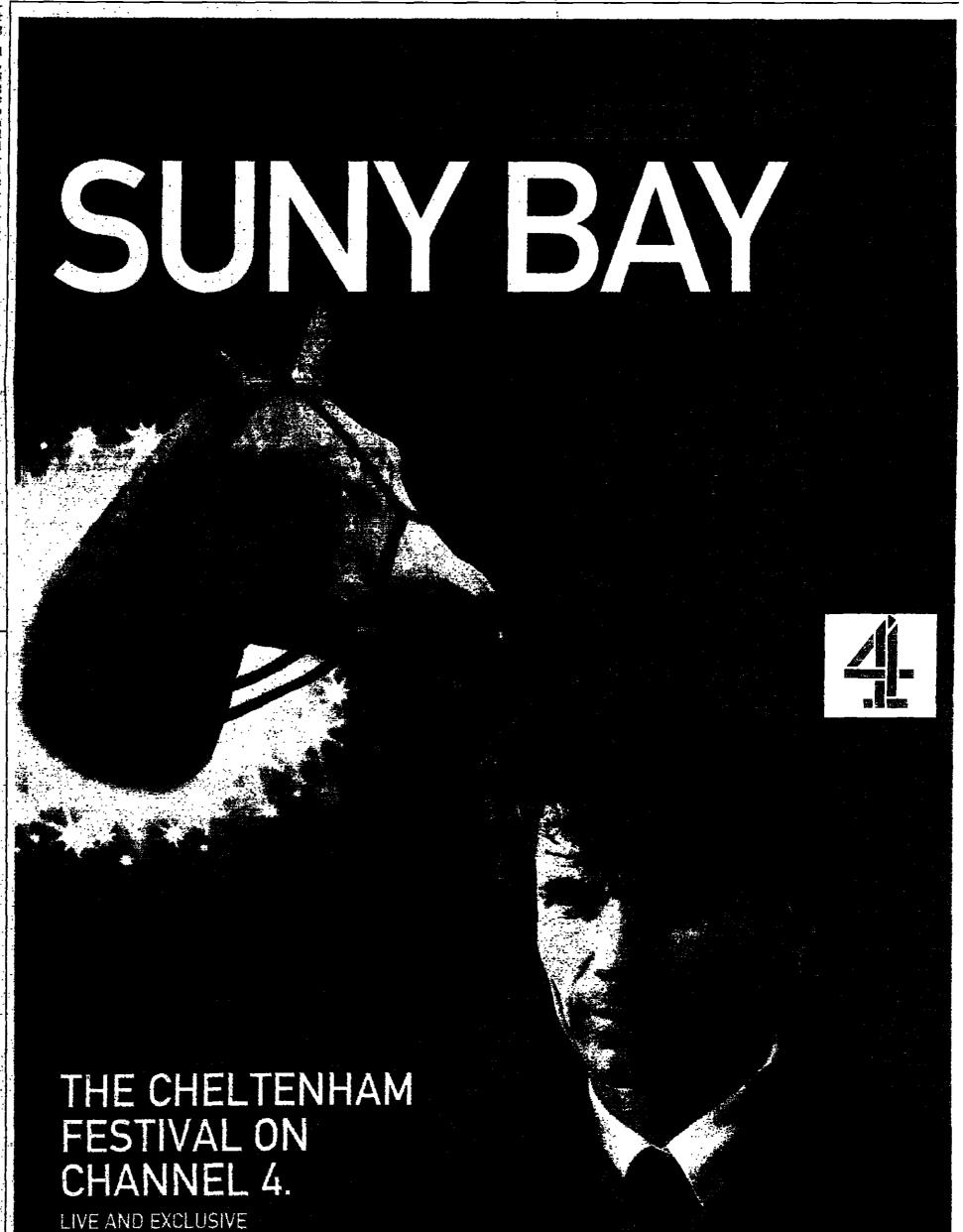
yesterday. Lord Justice Shiemann ruled that Stuart Pilbrow does not have to pay his legal bill because the firm of solicitors did not inform him that his affairs were being handled by a non-

Mr Pilbrow, of Lower Dene, East Grinstead, West Sussex, rang his local law firm, Pearless De Rougemont, over a fam-

AN ENGINEER who refused to pay a £1,300 legal bill when to a solicitor, but was put he found he had been advised through to a woman who at through to a woman who at the time was not even qualified as a legal executive.

The judge, sitting with Lady Justice Butler-Sloss, said he was not criticising the widespread practice of solicitors delegating work to others be they typists, legal executives or whatever" but the right to dele-gate depended on the implied

consent of the client. The ruling was hailed by Mr Pilbrow as "a victory for



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JOHN DIAMOND The Last Word

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Inquiry examines new cars 'rip-off'

Manufacturers stand accused of inflating prices, reports Arthur Leathley

HOW PRICES COMPARE

THE pricing of new cars is to be investigated by the monopolies watchdog in the wake of a report that lambasts motor manufacturers for forcing dealers to charge inflated prices. New cars in Britain cost up to 50 per cent more than in other European countries.

The Monopolies and Mergers Commission's investiga-tion into the relationship be-tween manufacturers and dealers was ordered yesterday by John Bridgeman, the Director-General of Fair Trading. He criticised price distortion by manufacturers and the refusal of some of them, and dealers, to provide information to his own inquiry. He also made clear that he will use new powers, which come into force next month, to proscute those who fail to co-operate with future inquiries. Conviction for obstruction will carry a maximum two-year sentence and an un-

Mr Bridgeman's sevenmonth investigation into 17 leading manufacturers and more than 400 dealers found evidence that car makers are refusing to give discounts to dealers that could be passed on to motorists. Dealers complained that huge discounts for fleet car sales were effectivesubsidised by the public

through artificially inflated forecourt prices.

The market isn't working properly and there is an imbalance of power between manufacturers and dealers which is distorting competition." He criticised manufacturers for not giving dealers discounts for sales volume, providing little incentive to cut prices to in-

crease sales figures. He also attacked the setting by manufacturers of inflated prices, which "are being used to mask the true selling prices of vehicles". Manufacturers set a recommended resale

Even cars built in Britain and shipped to the Conti-

nent are on sale at a much

According to a European

Commission survey last

month. Rover, owned by BMW. was the company with the biggest differen-tials. Its 214 hatchbacks.

built in Birmingham, cost

nearly 52 per cent more in

Britain than in France -

Other large differentials include Alfa Romeo 145.

£10,953 against £7,210.

lower cost than at home.

price, now outlawed on electrical goods, from which discounts were offered by dealers. Mr Bridgeman suggested that the commission, which will have nine months to publish its findings, might call for

Stephen Byers, the Trade and Industry Secretary, may have to introduce legislation to implement some of the commission's recommendations if it calls for drastic changes to the pricing of some two million new cars sold in Britain each year. The motor industry was investigated by the Mo-

£7,417 in Spain, £10,776 in Britain (45.3 per cent); Fiat Bravo, £7,281 in The Nether-

lands, £10,557 in Britain (45

per cent); Rover 414, £7,949 in Portugal, £11,379 in Brit-

ain (43 per cent).
Other examples include

the Ford Focus, £7,946 in Portugal, £10,157 in Britain

(27.8 per cent); Range Rover

V8i E28,948 in Portugal

£35,574 in Britain (22.9 per

cent); VW Polo, £5,426 in

Sweden, £7,163 in Britain

mission in 1992 but Mr Bridgeman said that the commission's recommendations had not had the desired effect. He added: "Overall, the distribution of new cars appears to be as inefficient as it was eight years ago." He is carrying out a separate investigation into alleged cartels in the motor industry.

Paul Everitt, head of policy at the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders, said: "We are complying with the rules and we believe that the British consumer is getting a good deal. We are offering very competitive prices. You have to remember that the prices compared in European surveys look merely at the list price of vehicles. What people actually pay in Britain is usual-

Alan Pulham, director of the National Franchised Dealerships Association, said he hoped the investigation would loosen the "stranglehold" man-ufacturers had over dealers.

Sheila McKechnie, director of the Consumers' Association, said: "We will be show-ing the MMC inquiry our detailed evidence of the scale of the problem as part of our cam-paign to end the great British

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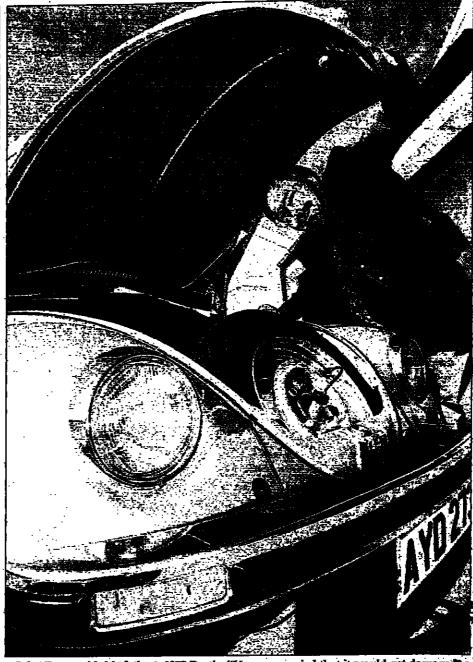
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John Dunn with his father's 1977 Beetle: "He was worried that it would get damaged

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Careful owner drives up price of shiny Beetle

By SIMON DE BRUXELLES

'ONE careful owner" is an understatement when it refers to Reg Dunn's beloved

Volkswagen Beetle.
The late Mr Dunn bought the silver car new in 1977 and since then it has travelled only 1,050 miles. On the rare occasions that he took it for a spin he checked weather forecasts for the previous three days to ensure there was no danger of the immaculate bodywork coming into contact with

Mr Dunn never drove the car further than 36 miles and banned his wife, Edna, from driving it, although he did allow her to occupy the passen-

Today Mr Dunn's pride and joy is expected to fetch more than the price of a new car when it is sold at auction, looking no different to the day it left the showroom 22 years ago. Bidding at Bristol Auction Rooms is expected to start

at £10,000 and could reach £20,000.

The former gunshop owner, who died in 1986 aged 73, bought the limited edition Beetle for £2,400 in 1977 after hearing that VW were stopping British market. His son John, 61, said yesterday: "Even in the late 70s, he found driving conditions a bit cut and thrust and was worried that it would

Mrs Dunn, who died in December, never drove the car and rejected several offers of £10,000. The closest she came to selling was to offer first refusal to the German footballer Jürgen Klinsmann, then playing for Tottenham Hotspur.

He turned the offer down. Her son said: "My mother and father were both great fans of German workmanship and mother believed that Herr Klinsmann embodied true sportsmanship."

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Rector loses fight to stop parish cut

By RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

A RECTOR has lost his landmark legal case brought after his bishop decided to reduce he size of his Church of Engdid parish by more than half. The Rev Ashley Chesman.

The Rev Ashley Cheesman,
46, was told by three members
of the Privy Council in a majority judgment at Downing
Street yesterday that the Bishop of Leicester had acted legally in halving his 800-strong
parish. The combined membership of 205 across six
churches will fall to 59 across

three, in the parish of Gaulby.
The judgment by two of the members of the judicial committee of the Privy Council was arrived at by Lord Hobhouse of Woodborough and Sir Christopher Slade. Lord Lloyd of Berwick found in favour of Mr Cheesman.

The case was brought by the mulacturing, Science and Pinance union, whose membership includes ciergy, on behalf of Mr Chesman. It followed acrimony between the vicar and his former bishop, the Right Rev Thomas Burler, who has moved to Southwark.

who has moved to Southwark.

Mr Cheesman had claimed he was a target because of his Evangelical style in a diocese where a more liberal Christianity is predominant. He had said that the reduced size of his parish would mean a cut in church income because of lower earnings from funerals,

christenings and weddings.

The judgment closes several legal and parochial disputes.

Mr Cheesman became Rector of Gaulby in 1988. The judgment notes "signs of impending trouble"; eight months fat-

ing trouble"; eight months later a churchwarden resigned.

There were further difficults when the rector was harged with wilfully and indecently exposing himself in a public lavatory. He was convicted by magistrates and suspended from his job, but in 1990 had his conviction overturned because the prose-

cution had failed to prove "annovance to the public". An attempt to take action against Mr Cheesman under church law was discontinued after four years, with costs amount-

ing to more than £100,000.

Bishop Butler was appointed to Leicester in July 1991.
The next month Mr Cheesman's suspension was ended and he was back at work.

But difficulties continued. In 1994, some parishioners objected to his Evangelical style and began holding services of prayers and hymns in the churches without him. To try to halt the impromptu ceremonies, he locked the organ in one of his churches to stop it being played without his permission.

Acrimony increased when

Mr Cheesman invoked ancient church law allowing him to appoint churchwardens. He made his mother a churchwarden even though she lived 100 miles away.

Finally, and despite objec-

Finally, and despite objections from Mr Cheesman's supporters that it was being used "at the behest of a small but influential and vociferous group opposed to Mr Cheesman", the scheme to reorganise the parish was submitted to the Queen last year for approval.

Bishop Butler decided to use the 1983 Pastoral Measure to reduce the size of Mr Cheesman's benefice, which consisted of three combined parishes with six churches and a Chapet of Ease. Under the measure, any such scheme must be "designed to make better provision for the cure of souls".

The judgment says: The bishop's result that the structural difficulties and the antagontism between the lay people in the parish were such that the scheme had become recreasing.

Roger Lyons, MSF general secretary, said that Mr Chees man was distraught over the





A design from Hussein Chalayan's TSE collection, left, and part of his London Fashion Week show. The week attracted almost 2,000 buyers

Fashion world honours a loyal talent



Chalayan: unlikely to move show to New York By LISA ARMSTRONG FASHION EDITOR

THEY came in their Manolo Blahnik kitten heels, Prada aqua-soles and ministerial limousines to honour their own at last night's British Fashion Awards.

Stephen Byers, the Trade and Industry Secretary, joined Helena Christensen to present the Designer of the Year award to Hussein Chalayan. The award was much applauded, Chalayan being one of the brightest, most stimulating talents of the past decade. His most recent show was one of the highlights of London Fashion week.

The enigmatic 28-year-old Central St Martin's graduate first appeared in 1993 with a collection which, he said at the time, he had buried in his garden to achieve that perfect, er, just buried-in-the-garden look. Since then he has proven that he can be commercially minded as well as conceptual. Apart from his own label, he produces a range for Top Shop's TS line and another for the luxury New

York-based cashmere specialist TSE.
The awards, held at the Natural History Museum and hosted by Ben Elton, came as London Fashion Week once more faced the prospect of successful de-

Alexander McQueen, who was diplomatically presented with a special achievement award last night, has announced that he will show in New York

a spokesman for the house said last night that "this categorically is not happening — unless something huge and unforeseen happens, we will be staying in London"

Other honours at the ceremony went to Elspeth Gibson, who won the new generation award; Burberry, the newly revamped classic British house; and to Paul Smith for his menswear.

This year's London Fashion Week was one of the most successful. The number of buyers attending was about 2,000, 16 per cent up on last year. John Wilson, chief executive of the British Fashion Council, said yesterday: "We were delighted with the way things went. It is a hopeful sign that Britain is still regarded internationally as a cradle of talent."

MP lied to police, but only about his age

By Mark Inglefield Political reporter

JOE ASHTON, the Labour MP, admitted yesterday that he had lied to police about his age, but excused himself on the grounds that the actress Joan Collins would have done the same. Mr Ashton, 65, gave the false date of birth when he was found in a massage parlour that was being raided

"You stick at sixty four," he said. "I don't know what Michael Caine, Sean Connery and Joan Collins and all the others do, but I have my suspicions."

Mr Ashton, the MP for Bassetlaw, made his admission at a press conference at the House of Commons as he attempted to rebut newspaper reports that he had misled the Northamptonshire police. He admitted he was at the Thai House and Siam Sauna in Northampton on the night of the raid, which took place last November.

Mr Ashron refused to say what he was doing at the massage parlour and insisted he had done nothing wrong: "There was no sex or that sort of thing," he said. "I have answered that question to my wife and to the Chief Whip. They are both very satisfied."

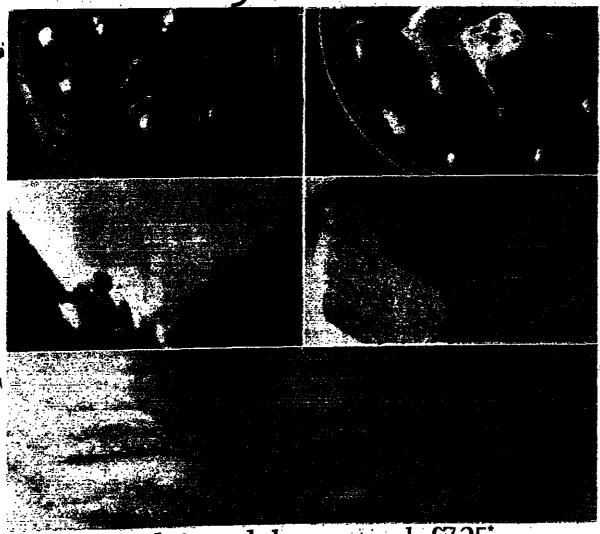
Apart from lying about his age. Mr Ashton denies misleading the police, who had raided the massage parfour as part of an investigation into an illegal immigrant prostitution ring. When asked why he had not revealed he was an MP to the police at the time, he said it was because he feared he might receive "special favours".

Chris Fox, the Northamptonshire Chief Constable, said that some of the information given to police had been 'misleading" and that a computer check had to be run to establish Mr Ashton's identity.

Mr Ashton said that he was considering lodging a complaint with the Registrar of Data Protection to discover how the details of the incident were revealed to the news-

He also said he would be seeking the advice of Jack Straw, the Home Secretary.

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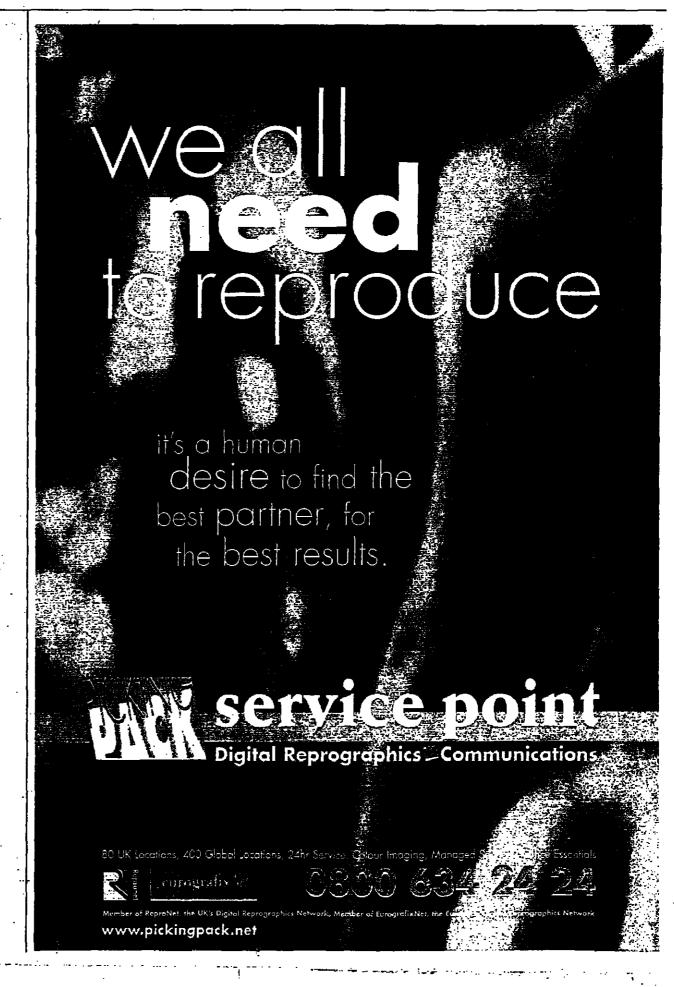
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Father tells of girl's heart surgery death Couple thanked disgraced doctor for trying to save their daughter's

their daughter's life, reports

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THREE fathers told the story of their babies' heart opera-tions to the Bristol hospital deaths public inquiry yester-

Ian Murray

day.

The two whose children survived had nothing but praise for the care they had received, but Michael Parsons, whose daughter died, described the

Both Mr Parsons and John McLorinan had children born-with Down's syndrome, which is commonly linked to heart problems. Mr Parsons' daughter Mia died in the operating theatre after a nine-hour opera-tion by James Wisheart, the consultant surgeon who was struck off last June. Mr McLorinan's son, Joe, is nine now, and full of energy, six years after Mr Wisheart oper-

Philip Wagstaff, 34, from Ex-eter, said that his daughter. Amy, had been born with two holes in the heart and a narrowed artery, but was "very performed by Mr Wisheart. The operation was a success and Amy, now seven, is "very

Mr Parsons, 47, from Car-marthen, told the inquiry in Bristol that Mr Wisheart said there was only a 20 per cent risk of his daughter dying if she had the operation to repair a hole in her heart. "He told us that, without the

operation, Mia would die, but with it she could run and jump child," he said. "We decided to have the full operation on the basis that it would save her life, on the basis of the low risk percentage and on the basis of Mr Wisheart's reputation. We were happy we were in the best of hands and it was a privilegation us to be there. We bonded very well with Mr

Early on the morning of the operation in May 1993, Mr Parsons said, a nurse at the infirmary asked him and his wife to give Mia the pre-medi-cation that would send her to sleep before the anaesthetic. 'who just wanted to go home" spilt some. The baby did not go to sleep. "I was content to cuddle her

in my arms, but I deeply regret now my decision to ask the nurse to give the pre-medication," he said. Mr Parsons said that he car-

ried Mia to the operating thea-tre, where "I handed Mia over

Shortly afterwards they saw Mr Wisheart, who told them that the operation had been a success, but that Mia's heart had failed to restart after she was taken off the bypass machine used to pump blood while the heart was undergoing surgery. "We felt shocked

to the anaesthetist and then

my wife gave her a kiss. As the

anaesthetist gave her an injec-tion, Mia gave what I think

was the hardest scream she

had ever screamed. For some

reason I said: That's right

Mia, kick back at the bas-

tards.' I don't know why I said

that I had no idea

then that things

were going to work out as badly as they

They waited for news in a ward

where there was a

woman with a two-year-old girl being admitted for an op-

eration the next

day. Nine and a half hours after

Mia's operation be-

gan, a nurse came in and told them

that she had died.

became distraught, so they went out into the corridor.

and dazed, but, because he was so distressed, we felt sympathy for Mr Wisheart and

shown into what Mr Parsons described as a junk

We found ourselves , outside, completely distressed

foot prints for them. Then they were asked to leave, even though they wanted to stay. "They said we would dis-rupt the ward. We found ourselves out of the door completely distressed and dazed. We

"Give me free-mail

Michael Parsons, whose daughter, Mia, died in surgery

thanked him for trying to save Mia's life," Mr Parsons said. The couple were then asked if they wanted to see Mia to say goodbye to her. They were

> room with a small sofa in it. They brought her in a white babygrow suit and a Moses and it shocked and hurt her to see our daughter wearing it. She was bloated and did not look like our daughter." The cardiac unit

support staff worker took a photoher hair and took hand and

wandered around the streets of Bristol crying, with people



John McLorinan spoke highly of Mr Wisheart

saw a television programme about the GMC investigation into the deaths of 29 babies at the hospital that they suspected anything was wrong. They

Down's syndrome charity worker that the hospital was ating when it was known in

But Mr McLorinan could not have spoken more highly on his son. The boy had been born with other serious conditions apart from the hole in his him and his wife that the baby had a 20 per cent chance of surcondition improved and the couple were told he had a 50 per cent chance of surviving the heart operation. "It was on the toss of a coin, but we wanted him to have a chance because otherwise he would die," said Mr McLorinan, 50, from Weston-super-Mare.

"We were so confident that in Bristol we had got the best, even though the operation was a high risk," he said. After the operation Joe had needs heart find turned up to see him then. "At all times of day or night you could see him walking about the wards," he said!
"He was a very caring man

and never seemed to go home.
"We were very lucky to get someone prepared to take the risk and operate on him. We

Mr Wagstaff said that, after the operation on Amy, she became ill and they were told that she had a blood clot on the heart, which had to be removed by a further operation. Mr Wisheart performed this The inquiry continues.

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By Helen William

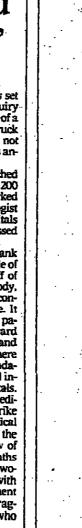
THE Health Secretary has set up an independent inquiry into why the incompetence of a gynaecologist who was struck off last September did not come to light earlier, it was an-nounced yesterday. Rodney Ledward's botched

operations left more than 200 women maimed. He worked as a consultant gynaecologist at the South Kent Hospitals NHS Trust and was dismissed in December 1996.

The inquiry, set up by Frank Dobson, will review the role of the management and staff of the trust, its predecessor body, and other organisations concerned with quality of care. It will investigate the care of pa-tients treated by Mr Ledward at the trust between 1990 and 1996 and earlier events where appropriate. Its recommendations could be incorporated into guidance for NHS hospitals.

Soon after the General Medical Council's verdict to strike Mr Ledward off the medical register. Mr Dobson told the trust to carry out a review of his work. Within two months of his being struck off, 179 women had come forward with concerns at surgical treatment by him. The trust is encouraging his former patients who

need help to come forward. The inquiry, to sit in private and report to Mr Dobson, will be chaired by Jean Ritchie, QC. Mr Dobson said: "It is vital that the public has full confidence in the NHS's commitment to clinical quality, and know that steps are being taken to ensure it is of the highest







Gym-shy girls tempted with fun and games

THE era of the schoolgirl "ra-diator bugger", who fights shy of games supervised by aggressive, jolly-hockey-sticks teachers on freezing pitches, could

soon be a thing of the past.
Schools are being advised to tempt girls into school sports with aerobics, private shower cubicles and the promise of discos with male athletes.

The move is part of the Government-backed Girls in Sport Partnership scheme, which arose from research showing that four out of ten girls drop out of sport by the age of 14, twice as many as boys. The research rang alarm bells at the Youth Sport Trust, which is sponsoring the project with Nike, because it has been proved that playing sport in-creases girls' confidence and makes them less likely to have eating disorders and unplanned pregnancies, or to leave school early.

"We're obviously very concerned," said Tony Banks, the Sports Minister, at the project launch at the Arsenal football ground in North London. "Decisive action must be taken to stop the falling numbers of girls in sport."

The new approach is based on a survey, conducted by Loughborough University, of attitudes to PE among 3,000 children aged 11 to 14. While boys were generally enthusiasSchools advised to kick old ways

retae at the end of the prich should be a thing of the past:

schools are being advised to

offer indoor alternatives on

Baggy gym knickers and un-flattering pleated skirts should

be replaced by trendier - and warmer - tracksuits, which

the girls can keep in a "sports

wardrobe" at school. The bull-

dog of a games mistress bel-

lowing instructions from the sidelines should now live on

only in older women's night-

mares. Professor Kirk said:

"Girls want to play with their

friends in a friendly atmos-

phere, so, if you make a mis-

The reforms are being tested

in a pilot scheme at 52 schools

across the country. The re-

searchers will return in the

summer term to monitor girls'

take, no one yells at you."

into touch to bring girls back

into sport, writes

Helen Rumbelow

tic about sport, especially football, girls had a long list of complaints. This did not make them lazy or weedy, the trust said, but showed that schools had been ignoring how differ-

ent girls were from boys. We know what we have to do to keep women in sport," David Kirk, Professor of Youth Sport at Loughborough, said. Girls are much more likely to be motivated by fun; rather than winning at competitive games. Even simple things like that old horror of waiting to be picked for teams: we can't do that sort of thing any more."

The traditional double hockey or compulsory cross-country run is out of favour because giris resent structured or forced activities. They should be replaced by selfdefence, dance, aerobics and alternative sports such as foot-

The mottled thighs of girl



Sport for all: netball in the sunshine at Langdon School in East Ham, London, yesterday

Dead rats save grouse chicks from predators

AN EXPERIMENT designed to prevent hen harriers from preying on grouse by feeding them dead rats has been hailed a success after a oneyear trial in Scotland.

More than 3,000 white rats were fed to six breeding pairs of harriers, one of Britain's deadliest birds of prey, on the Langholm Moor in Dumfries and Galloway. By placing the rats on perches near the harrier nests, the birds were persuaded to take free food in-

stead of hunting for grouse. First estimates, announced yesterday by Scottish Natural Heritage and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds. suggested that 35 to 40 grouse chicks had been saved for each harrier nest supplied with rats. The inspectors monitoring the nests saw remains of mammals other than rats. but no grouse remains.

The total costs of the excerrise was estimated at £750 per nest per year, but SNH suggested that the saving in live grouse might amount to £800 a nest. The results have per-

experiment for another year. Magnus Magnusson, the SNH chairman, said that many landowners would like to try the technique, and that SNH had produced a booklet describing the experiment in the hope that they would use rats rather than illegally kill-

ing or scaring off harriers.

The results were greeted cautiously by Maurice Hankey, the director of the Scottish Landowners Federation. Although he welcomed the results, he said that one year was too short a time for valid conclusions to be reached. He gave a warning that, if harrier numbers were allowed to grow too high, commercial grouse shooting could be wiped out.

Dick Potts, of the Game Conservancy Trust, one of the partners in the experiment. said that "diversionary feed-ing" would not work unless harrier numbers were controlled by other means.

"On its own, it would increase the number of harriers and so exacerbate the prob-

Playgroups get £500,000 grant

THE Government yesterday threw a £500,000 lifeline to voluntary playgroups but campaigners gave a warning that hundreds more face closure. Margaret Hodge, the Child-

care Minister, also announced the PLA figures and maintains future of playgroups as the have closed and that others Government expands pre have opened but Ms Hodge school provision to three year- acknowledged the PLA's con-

The emergency grant is the second in as many years to vol.

August, into "how pre-schools untary pre-schools, which campaigners claim are being part in delivering early education and childrane, as we expaigners claim are being squeezed by the expansion of primary school reception class-es and local authority nur- Ms Hodg

The Pre-School Learning Alliance says that 1,500 playgroups closed during the past two years because four-yearolds were starting primary

Margaret Lochrie, the PLA's she said PA News

chief executive, predicted that 1,700 of the remaining 17,500 would close this year as threeyear-olds took up places in local authority nurseries.

The Government disputes cerns, and announced an independent review, to report by

Ms Hodge said that playgroups may have to adapt to meet the needs of parents.

"Our research shows the vast majority of pre-schools are willing and considering changes to their services or hours to meet parents, needs,"

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Childcare cash help extended to over-7s

CHILDCARE subsidies unveiled in the Budget are to be extended to children aged over 7 in a drive to bolster family life while helping more parents to get back to work.
Gordon Brown said yester-

day that millions more parents would now benefit from the new childcare tax credit. which is worth up to £105 a week. It will also mean that childcare for 8 to 14-year-olds will regulated for the first time

In an interview with The Times, Mr Brown said childcare could no longer be considered just as part of social policy and an optional add-on for politicians. "Under previous governments matters like childcare were peripheral. We are saying that this is not just a social issue, it is an economic issue and it has moved to the centre of this Government's thinking. When you think of re-

£500,000 FOR PLAYGROUPS

Government gave £500,000 to bail out playwarnings that 100,000 childcare places are under threat (Hannah Betts writes). This is the second emergency grant to voluntary preschools, which campaigners claim are being badly hit by the expansion of primary school reception classes and local authority nurseries. The Pre-School Learning

Alliance claims that 1,500

playgroups have closed in the last two years, as a consequence of four year olds beginning primary school earlier. Margaret Lochrie, its chief executive, predicted that 1,700 more - out of a total 17,500 - would close this year, as three year olds began to take up places in local authority nurseries.

driving force behind the Gov-

Strategy. Tonight he will at-

tend a reception organised by

the Kids Club Network, which

represents more than 4,000 school childcare projects, as part of its annual conference.

More than £8 billion of pub-

lic money has already been

earmarked for childcare servic-

es, including the provision of up to one million out-of-school

places over three years, the

ernment's National Childcare

The extra funding is intended to tide playgroups over until the new childcare tax credit comes in this October.

Brown says millions of families will benefit from his expansion of new

tax credit, reports Alexandra Frean

moving the barriers to the discial support for parents. Some 60,000 new childcare places crimination against women in employment, the issue of childhave been created this year alone. According to a study by the Kids Club Network, childcare is absolutely central," he care provision is on course to The Chancellor has been a

> cent by 2003. More money is expected to flow into the sector as the new tax credit takes off. Some £200 million has been set aside in its first year. The credit will be worth up to £70 a week for families with one child, and £105 where there are two or more children. It will be available from October for parents with a joint income of up to £30,000, and will be

increase by more than 400 per

paid on a sliding scale.

Mr Brown said that regulating childcare for the over-7s would ensure that the new tax credit was made available to millions more parents than originally planned. This is because it applies only to regis-tered forms of childcare, and until now out-of-school clubs and holiday schemes for those aged 8 or over have been exempt from regulation.

Childcare organisations catering for 8 to 14 year olds will be able to apply for accreditation with and regular inspection by government-approved agencies, such as the Kids Club Network. "This measure will enable parents wanting to take advantage of the child-care tax credit to use breakfast clubs, after-school and holiday clubs, that are run by a school or that use school premises," Mr Brown said.

He also disclosed that the Government is to set up a national telephone helpline and a series of linked Internet sites giving parents details about registered childcare places in their area and information about claiming the tax credit. The Chancellor added that

he hoped to persuade more employers of the economic benefits of providing childcare. The experience of America is that employers who are pre-pared to provide childcare have a workforce that is more productive, more likely to stay longer and be loyal to the company. It is good economic sense. It is common sense.". However, he stressed that

he was not trying to browbeat parents, but to give them more choices. "I am not trying to tempt more parents into work. I am saying to people, look we understand that the costs of childcare are very high and that there is a gap in childcare places and we understand -especially after all these wellpublicised incidents (of child abuse) — that people need to be satisfied about the quality

and training of carers. "What we are doing here for childcare is a breakthrough for Britain and a chance for everybody to feel that they now have opportunities that they did not have before," he added.



Gordon Brown yesterday: said that he wanted to give parents more choices

Labour softens stance on lorry tax

pocto lens ii 10 sav

By PHILLP WEBSTER POLITICAL EDITOR

TONY BLAIR hinted yesterday that the Government will look at ways of softening the impact of the Budget on the road haulage industry.

He has asked ministers to meet representatives of the industry which has claimed that transport taxation policies could cost 50,000 jobs over three years. A number of business leaders wrote to The Times on Monday protesting at the impact of the increases in diesel duty and taxes on the

largest commercial vehicles.

The Times also disclosed that big haulage firms were seriously considering moving parts of their fleets abroad to take advantage of cheaper run-

ning costs.
In the Commons yesterday William Hague accused Gordon Brown of neglecting to mention the 12 per cent increase in diesel duty in a "misleading presentation of a dis-honest Budget". Mr Blair de-fended the rise but said he was aware of industry concerns. "1 certainly understand the problems of the road haulage indus-

try," he said. Steve Norris, the Road Haulage Association chief, has been invited to meet John Reid, the Transport Minister.

The industry is pressing for a special fuel duty rebate scheme for trucks of 32 tonnes and over, those worst affected

Benn and Major dream ticket gives Blair a headache

ony Benn and John Major. the dream ticket. Readers of the Commons Order Paper must have blinked yesterday to see the former Prime Minister's name after Mr Benn's in a list of otherwise hard-Left Labour MPs on a

And, at Prime Minister's Questions. William Hague took up their campaign as if it were his own. But this is less a new political alignment than the welcome, though chance, broadening of the debate over the balance between the execu-

The issue producing this unlike-

ly alliance is the appointment of the two British members of the European Commission. The Benn/ Major/Hague group argues that they should be approved by the Commons before their formal ap-

This is now politically attractive, given the arguments about the Commission's lack of democratic accountability. But there was more than a touch of opportunism about Mr Hague's involvement, since, as a somewhat bemused and reluctant Tony Blair pointed out, the Tory leader had not made the suggestion in his letter about the next Tory nominee before this week's row erupted.

There is an important constituvote in Parliament.

Mr Benn has for long cam-

tional, as well as political, point here. At present, Prime Ministers make appointments to a wide range of posts bishops, judges, am-bassadors, royal commissions, chairmen of public bodies, as well as ministers and peers. These executive prerogatives, still nominally announced in the name of the Oueen, can be exercised without a

paigned to make such prime ministerial patronage, as well as other ex-



ecutive powers such as signing treaties and declaring war, subject to the approval of the Commons. As I discussed last Friday, he has just produced a Bill, his third on the is-sue, with cross-party backing, including from David Davis, the former Tory minister and chairman of the Public Accounts Select

Committee. Governments would still make nominations, but the Commons would have to give its

his proposal would strengthen the accountability of the particularly now that many important public jobs are exercised at arms length from ministers themselves — by the Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee, by utility regulators and by European issioners.

The counterview is that quality

ward if they are subject to the intru-sive scrutiny which some nomi-nees face under the American Senate's confirmation system. These fears can partly be answered by having tight rules both on the length of the process and by limiting the issues that can be raised to their professional suitability for

the post in question. Others argue that the Commons would somehow become committed to the nominees, and unable to scrutinise them subsequently, if MPs were involved in the appointment process. That certainly does. not happen in the United States.

The main objection is that Prime Ministers never want to limit their patronage. Ministers squashed a proposal by the Treasury Select Committee for formal confirmation of members of the Monetary Policy Committee, though Giles Radice, its chairman, has introduced post-appointment hearings. Mr Hague's advocacy of the

idea has made it much less likely that Mr Blair will agree. But an enterprising committee chairman should hold a quick inquiry, if only to force the Government to come up with a full explanation for its de-

dangerously reliable!



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must drop anti-gay legislation

Islands

BY ROLAND WATSON POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN'S outposts will have to repeal anti-homosexual laws and tighten up financial rules for their inhabitants to receive full British citizenship, Robin Cook said yesterday. The changes will be required by the Government as part of the deal which will see all 150,000 people living in the 13 dependent territories given

British passports.
It will allow those living in the islands the right to move to Britain, although Mr Cook said he did not expect a mass influx because 70 per cent of them enjoyed a higher per cap-ita income than UK residents.

The requirement for territories to decriminalise consensual homosexual acts in private, in line with the UK Sexual Offences Act 1967, is aimed at the five Caribbean territories of Anguilla, British Virgin Istands, Cayman Islands, Montserrat and Turks and Caicos Islands

The British Virgin Islands and Bermuda will also have to repeal the rights of their courts to pass sentences of cor-poral punishment. And Bermuda will have to renounce

the death penalty for murder.
Mr Cook said the changes were necessary to ensure the territories abided by the same standards as Britain and did not fall short of the European Convention on Human Rights.He also warned the Cayman Islands and the British Virgin Islands that they had until the end of the year to meet international standards on money-laundering and the transparency of their finan-cial systems, including co-operating with law enforcement

The details are contained in a White Paper unveiled by Mr Cook yesterday, titled Partnership for Progress and Prosperity. It includes the provision that the territories will in future drop the "dependent" in their titles and be called UK overseas territories.

Leading article, page 25

Cook slur may go to police

THE police could be called in to investigate the attempted smear of Robin Cook by linking him with a dossier of confidential information about a Labour MP (Roland Watson writes). The Prime Minister indicated yesterday that Jack Straw, the Home

vestigation once he had looked at the documents which purported to show that the Foreign Secretary had ordered a trawl of the private life of Diane Abbott, the MP for Hackney North and Stoke Newington. Mr

"obvious, amateurish fake" but their surfacing was "no trivial matter". The papers appeared to contain details from Home Office records on Ms Abbott's time as a civil servant, and a stolen Filofax of hers.



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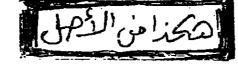
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Doctors bury lens in cheek to save sight

By NIGEL HAWKES SCIENCE EDITOR

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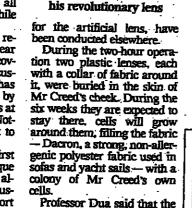
DOCTORS yesterday implanted an artificial cornea into the check of a 76-year-old man in an attempt to restore his sight. In six weeks the plastic lens will be removed, together with the human cells that have grown around it, and used to replace the damaged cornea in one of his eyes.

Cecil Creed damaged his eyes in a chemical accident when a child. He lost the sight in one, while the other has had three corneal transplants, all of which worked for a while before failing.

The latest technique for replacing a comea - the clear front part of the eye, which covers the coloured iris and focuses light on the retina - has been developed in Italy by Stephano Pintucci, who was at Queens Medical Centre in Nottingham to demonstrate it to Professor Harminder Dua.

it is believed to be the first time this particular technique has been used in Britain, although similar operations, using teeth to form the support

Stephano Pintucci with



the cheek when fully colonised with cells. "We then bore a hole in the centre of Mr Creed's eye to fit the lens," he

The collar of fabric then grows into the surrounding eye naturally and is not rejected. "Because the cells have come from the host this method allows us to heal the plastic lens with living tissue." Professor Dua also took some material, the mucous

membrane, from inside Mr Creed's upper lip, and stitched it into place on the surface of his right eye. "The operation went as planned and it is hoped that in

two months the mucous membrane will fuse with the front of Mr Creed's eye and provide sufficient bulk and thickness to the front of the eye to hold the prosthesis in place," he tion or injury. Up to 30 per cent may be rejected, in which case a second transplant may be tried. In Mr Creed's case, repeated failure of transplants left no choice but to go for an entirely artificial lens.

vices should be colonised by

his cells. One will be used,

while the other left in place as

While there are risks in-

volved in the operation, Mr

Creed has little to lose - with-

out the operation he will never

see again. "I know this is my

Corneal transplants are

common, and very successful.

They are used after the cornea

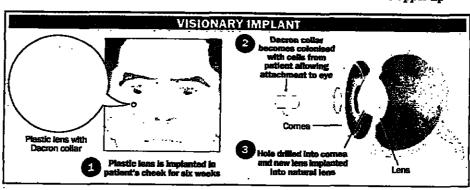
has been damaged by infec-

a spare for many years.

last chance," he said.

Speaking from her home in Moreton, The Wirrall, Mr Creed's wife, Norma, 80, said: "He's been going backwards and forwards to hospital for years. It will be wonderful if he gets his sight back. He will be thrilled to the skies."







Pintucci and Dua: the operation went as planned

Ancient crocodiles grew to be giants

THE giant crocodiles that Brochu, of the Field Museum once preyed on dinosaurs just of Natural History in Chicagrew and grew. American sci-

entists have discovered. Deinosuchus was four times as big as any modern crocodile, growing to lengths of up to 33ft and weighing as much as five tonnes. Scientists had been puzzled by the fact that it grew to such a size, given that it did not share the dinosaurs'

high metabolic rate. Gregory Erickson, of the years Dinosaurs reached sim-University of California at ilar sizes in seven or eight Berkeley, and Christopher years.

growth rings in the bones of Deinosuchus specimens to the length of the bones to estimate

They conclude in Nature that the creatures, which lived about 100 million years ago, grew slowly, taking about 35 years to reach their maximum size. They lived for about 50



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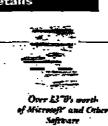
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Waitrose and Co-op join the GM backlash

ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

WATTROSE and the Co-op joined the supermarket revolt against genetically modified foods yesterday, promising to make their own-label brands

The pledges, which came after Sainsbury's and Marks & Spencer announced a Europewide scheme to phase out foods containing ingredients and additives produced from gene-altered crops, will cause concern for the biotechnology companies championing genetic modification.

But supermarket chains that have not banished GM foods from their shelves expressed promises of their competitors, saying it would be difficult to identify all such products.

Waitrose, which has 117 branches, said that none of its own-label products, including pet food, would contain GM soya or maize by the end of the chain hoped that its own-label foods would be free from flours, emulsifiers and other additives derived from gene-altered crops by next year. The

THE PIONEERS

Farmers used selective breeding in Central America more than 7,000 years ago to achieve a feat of genetic engineering unmatched by to-day's biotechnologists, a

report in Nature says. A wild grass, teosinit, was changed into maze. The two were thought to be entirely separate before DNA analysis led by John Doebley from the University of Minnesota.

Co-op. Britain's third-largest chain, said it had asked suppliers of its own-label food to use ingredients and additives from non-GM sources.

Asda, one of the first stores to begin phasing out own-label food with GM ingredients, said yesterday that the switch would be completed within three months. It has asked the big importers of soya and maize to seek crops free from genetic modification. The store said that the ban in-cluded ingredients and additives derived from gene-altered crops. Safeway, Tesco

mitted to own-brand foods with gene-altered ingredients.
Each emphasised yesterday
the need to offer choice,
backed by explicit labelling.
Privately they were questioning whether their rivals could

provide genuinely GM-free foods. A Somerfield spokes-man said that, because soya from the United States was a guarantee that foods contain-

ing it were GM-free. Safeway said that it believed there were "tangible benefits" from some gene-altered prod-ucts, including lower prices. Tesco said: "We have no plans

to change our policy."
Sainsbury's and Marks & Spencer have joined chains in France, Ireland, Switzerland, Belgium and Italy to source crops destined for processing into own-label foods that are

certified GM-free. Sainsbury's said the collect tive buying power would enathat guaranteed GM-free soya and maize. "We have been working on this for 18 months. Our own-brand labels will be free from GM ingredients, additives and derivatives by sum-

Alternatives 'hard to find'

By Our Environment Correspondent

GM-free, own-label brands was brought into question last night because of the difficul-ties in finding soya supplies that are 100 per cent GM-free.

They hope to reformulate many foods to replace geneti-cally altered soya with alternatives such as rapeseed oil and wheat-based products, but some foods using soya meal and protein, including vegetarian dishes, are far more difficult to reformulate. So the stores are turning to Brazil and Canada, where it is claimed that there are good supplies of non-gene-altered

However, field-stale trials of gene-altered soya are being

THE ability of stores to stock carried out in Brazil and it is just cannot tell." Conventional likely that some is entering shipments, a source in the crop-importing industry said. Brazil also imports large

quantities of American soya towards the end of the Brazilian harvest to make up consignments to Europe and elswhere. About 40 per cent of the American crop is geneticaltion of GM-free soya is relatively small and much of this has already been signed up by the health food industry.

"So to say that shipments from Brazil are GM-free is probably utter nonsense." the source said. "It may be a few." or it could be much more, you ping to processing.

maize, the other big crop which is being gene altered commercially, should prove far easier to source. It is grown in Europe and only 6,000 to 15,000 tonnes of gene-altered crop is in circulation. French farmers are now refusing to grow gene-altered maize amid fears that consumers in Europe will reject the crop.

Sainsbury's rejected sugge tions it could not guarantee GM-free own label foods. A spokesman said the store had set up an "audit trail" back to South America, which means it can know everything about the seeds used and the fate of of the beans are gene-modified. the consignments, from ship-

NEWS IN ERIEF

Dome rree for 10,000 children

million children from 10.000 schools will be able to visit the Millennium Dome free, the Prime Minister announced. On every schoolday next year, more than 5,000 pupils are expected to visit the Dome in Greenwich for a

four-hour tour. ... Four draws will be held to allocate tickets. All schools will be able to apply for up to 100 tickets for children aged 8

Jennie Page, chief executive of the New Millennium Experience Company, said: "The Dome will be the greatest con-centration of entertainment, inspiration and education under one roof. A third of schools will be able to bring children with free admission." Details will be sent to schools in June.

Rapist captured

Andrew Crisp, a rapist who es-caped from Lincoln prison last week, has been recap-tured in North London, Jamie Lewis, 24, from Lincoln, is to appear at the city's magistrates court today, accused of helping Crisp, 36, to escape.

Library reopens

A partial reopening of the reading rooms at St Pancras will be announced by the British Library today, even if a strike by book delivery staff continues. Management and union officials are sheduled to meet tomorrow.

Officer charged

A police officer has been charged with neglect of duty after the death of Geoffrey Lea, 27, in a cell at Preston police station last year. The Lancashire officer is expected to appear before magistrates in the town today.

Firemen held

Five firemen were arrested by police in Bolton over allegations that they made bogus 999 calls and started fires to increase their earnings. The men all worked as part of a re-

Author in plea to restrict Shakespeare

By Dalya Alberge ARTS CORRESPONDENT

IHE adventure writer Wilbur Smith said yesterday that children should not be made to study Shakespeare too early or his plays would switch off

young minds.

The millionaire author, whose books have sold more than 100 million copies worldwide, said that the Bard should be saved for students who were able to appreciate the works. Speaking at a booksigning in Birmingham to promote his latest novel, Monsoon, Smith said: "At 11 and 12, when I was introduced to Shakespeare, I hated the experience. I was beaten across the knuckles and backside if I got

"It's like being taught Chau-cer at 12. You've been taught one English language, and now you're being introduced to another. I didn't enjoy Shakespeare until I was 16. It was only when I saw Olivier making sense of the whole lan-guage that I came to love it."

Smith believes it was through the stories of John Buchan and others that he "came to love the English language". Remembering how his mother read bedtime stories to him as a child, he expressed dismay that children today tended to rely on television, with programmes such as Barney and the Teletub-



Smith: owes more to mother and Buchan

bies: "I developed a reverence and love for the written word before I could read."

Smith was born in Central Africa in 1933 and now lives in Cape Town. He has written 26

novels. beginning with When The Lion Feeds.

Later Peter Holland, the director of the Shakespeare Institute at the University of Birmingham, said: "Teachers now do not make children wade through Shakespeare. They make him come alive by acting. Watching Shakespeare is not a turn-off. Look at the audiences excited by Shakespeare in Love."

Ronnie Mulryne, from Warwick University's English de-partment, said: "Shakespeare is a part of our culture and is central to the way we speak

Justice prevails over the millennium bug

THE justice system would not be affected by Millennium Bug, the Lord Chancellor said vesterday.

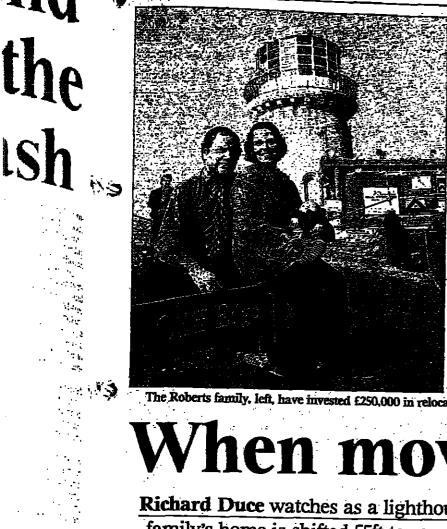
Lord Irvine of Lairg said that work on Year 2000 compliance was well advanced, and that almost 90 per cent of vital systems in his department would complaint and by the end of April

The Lord Chancellor's Detained. or part-time, crew partment, which is responsi-based at Herwich fire station. | ble for courts throughout the

country, as well as the the Land Registry, Public Records Office and the Northern Ire-land Court Service, commissoned consultants to ensure that all its computer systems were safe. They concluded that the department had "secured itself from Year 2000 threats and that its customers, suppliers and other partners in the justice system can depend on its services and operations continuing undisturbed".

farlic gives

when you





The Roberts family, left, have invested £250,000 in relocating their home near Beachy Head, East Sussex, to a site where it should be safe for the next 50 years. Their plans were brought forward by a 50,000-tonne cliff fall last November

When moving house can be a cliffhanger

Richard Duce watches as a lighthouse family's home is shifted 55ft to save it from tumbling into the English Channel

FOR Mark and Louise Roberts it was the ultimate house-moving nightmare. They had to travel only 55ft — but they were taking their entire home with them.

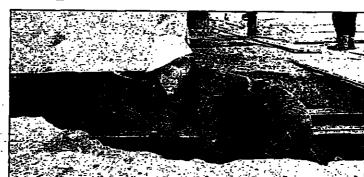
Home for Mr and Mrs Roberts is the 150-year-old Belle Tout lighthouse, which stood perilously close to the cliff edge on the Sussex chalk downs near Beachy Head. So, with nature issuing a move it or lose it ultimatum, the couple embarked on an engineering feat, financed by a building to a site where it should be

find'

safe from the sea for the next 50

On a hazy spring day overlooking the English Channel, Mr Roberts, 34, watched yesterday as his home inched almost imperability away from the edge of the 285ft cliff. "It reminds me of when my wife

was in labour," he said. "There were all these people tending to her needs and there was nothing I could do to help. It reminds me of the agony of waiting to know if everything is going to be all right." Such a short move takes 17 men,



Brett Bowen greases the tracks on which the lighthouse was moved

a battery of hydraulic jacks, specially greased rails and a computer to monitor every millimetre of movement. The specialist contractors Abbey Pynford had performed a simi-

lar task when they moved the chapel at Great Ormond Street hospital. Mr and Mrs Roberts run a leisure company and have a 13-month-old daughter, Haven, and a six-week-old baby boy, Quinn. They became a lighthouse family when they took a lease on the disused building from Eastbourne council two years ago.

While they knew there would eventually be a need for action, the moving plans were brought forward by a 50,000-tonne cliff fall that left the lighthouse 25ft closer to

"It was a November morning last year and there was a big rumbling noise like thunder," Mrs Roberts, 30, said. "Mike grabbed the baby and the dog and we jumped into the car. We got to the bottom of the drive, from where you can't see the house, but we did see a massive doud of dust, so we knew that the cliff had fallen. When we came back we didn't know if there would

be half a lighthouse or no light-house at all."

The 55ft granite-clad tower was

intact, but only loft from the sea and contractors have spent the past three months digging through chalk to underpin the building with jacks. Reinforced beams were then cast under the loadbearing walls.

Four hydraulic jacks were used to push the building backwards from the sea along specially greased rails to its new home above a recently built extension.

Sightseers from Eastbourne joined reporters and television crews yesterday to see the thing move. And so it did at 9.40am, for the best part of 2ft, before it stopped again. Apparently some chalk had fallen away from the cliff, but, after rigorous checks proved all was

lunchtime. Paul Kiss, managing director of Abbey Pynford, was optimistic that the lighthouse would be in place by early evening.

Proceedings were not helped by the brief evacuation of the site for a bomb scare. It eventually transpired that an unexploded device had been found further along the cliffs, where Canadian troops had practised shelling during the Second World War.

The lighthouse has mains electricity and water pumped from an underground well and the hearing is run on solid fuel.

The underpinning will remain beneath the lighthouse after the operation is complete for the nearinevitable need for another move in

Garlic gives piglet taste of mother Yorkshire feta casts off EU fetters

By Nigel Hawkes, science editor

PIGS whose food is spiked with garlic could help their piglets through the trauma of weaning, according to a scientist. The familiar taste of garlic, acquired through their mothers' milk, would help piglets to eat solid food, as long as it had the same strong tast

try it with pigs. He says that piglets are and take a bite," he told New Scientist. In

taken from their mothers at three weeks and put straight on to solid food. Some take as long as a week to start eating it. "A lot suffer, and their growth is set back, which means a loss to the farmer."

At next week's meeting of the British Society for Animal Science in Scarborough, he will present the results of the rat studies. These show that rat pups whose r Jon Day, of the ADAS agricultural re-mothers ate garlic or cumin in their diet

the wild, piglets are weared more slowly, gradually adapting to solid food by mixing it with feeds from their mothers. But in pig farms, the process is abrupt. Piglets are taken away from their mothers so that they can produce another litter.

Dr Day says the pork finally produced will not taste of garlic. By the time they reach a marketable weight of 80-100 kilograms, at the age of 18-21 weeks, pigs will search centre near King's Lynn, Norfolk. were more inclined to eat foods containhas evidence that the technique works in
rats, and is now looking for funding to
battle is to get them to stick their noses in
used for the awkward weaning period

By Elizabeth Judge

A YORKSHIRE woman was given the go-ahead yesterday to continue selling feta cheese when a European court ruled that the name should not be exclusive to Greek dairies.

It was a "victory for common sense", said Judy Bell, who received more than a hundred letters of support when her battle was reported last year. Feta had been added to

the list of protected names produced by the European Commission after a request by

Greek cheesemakers. Yesterday the European Court of Justice agreed with Danish, French and German cheesemakers that they had "unjustly" been stopped from using the name. Feta will now join Eccles cakes and Bath buns as a product that can be sold outside its place of origin.

Mrs Bell, who produces feta

from a family-run farm in North Yorkshire, said she was delighted with the ruling. She added: "I had been told by the Ministry of Agriculture that I would not be able to sell my cheese after 2001. Now I will be going full steam ahead."

Mrs Bell's company, Shepherd's Purse Cheese, has been producing the handmade cheese for 23 years. It has won er shops. She said that, when she first heard from the ministry of the objections, she thought it was a joke. "Even Greek tourists at a tra fair told me it was as good any they had tasted in Greece."

She said of the pull ic interest in her case: "I have had letters from people telling me to play around with the lettering rename it 'Efta'. One pe a British Cheese Award and is son suggested I should call it 'I



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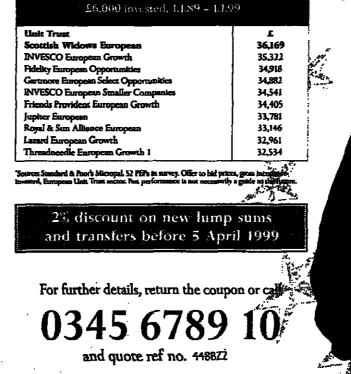
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Britain pays homage to Catalonia's style

Our top architects have given their annual prize not to a person, but to a city, reports Marcus Binney

THE Royal Institute of British
Architects has broken with 150
years of tradition and given its
Barcelona's first mayor after annual gold medal not to an ar-chitect, but to the city of Barce-

The medal, which is the world's most highly prized argranted to almost all the great architects of the 20th century, including Frank Lloyd Wright, Le Corbusier, Alvar Aalto and, more recently, to Sir Norman Foster, Lord Rog-Riverside and Sir Michael Hopkins. This year the jury deemed that the regen-eration of Barcelona in the two decades since the restoration of democracy provided such a shining example to other cities, especially London, that it decided to honour the city, its overnment, its residents and

s design professionals.

the fall of Franco; Pasquall Maragali, elected mayor four times between 1983 and 1995, and the current mayor; Joan Clos. With them will be two architects, Orial Bohigas, who masterminded the Olympic vil-lage in 1992, and Josep Acebil-

Señor Bohigas said: "It is very important that British architects have given this award not just to fellow architects but to politicians and mayors who have the power to transform cities and are the real authors

Architectural links between Britain and Barcelona are growing rapidly. The Catalan Enrico Miralles recently won

How much have you



tect David Mackay has been a partner of Martorell Bohigas Mackay since 1962. The firm, runner-up in the competition for the Millennium Village in Greenwich, was recently chosen to plan a new quarter in the London borough of New-ham and is also designing a thoroughfare in Cardiff to link the city's centre with its har-bour. They are now favourites to design the South Bank arts

Peter Hodgkinson, a British

on your IT budget

Barcelona with Ricardo Bofill said: "I came here 33 years ago and fell in love with the coun try, the food and the wine.

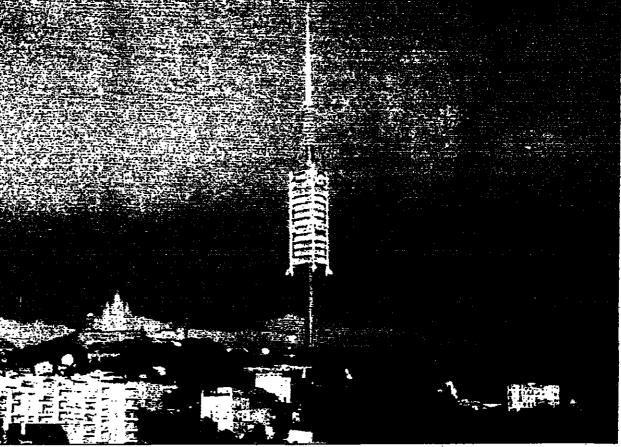
'Architects are much freer here. There's no dominant inarchitecture is not so developerled. As designers, we have a much greater control of projects from design to comple-

tion.
"We begin at ten in the morning and continue until ten at night, breaking for two hours at lunch. Dinner begins at 11 and the nightlife at one o'clock. There's snow in the Pyrenees, miles of glorious beaches, and I have a farm in the hills with a vineyard." Mr Hodgkinson was the ar-

chitect of Barcelona's spacious airport terminal, and the practice also designed the Catalan National Theatre in the form of a giant glass classical temple.

The gold medal recognises

not just landmark projects in Barcelona — such as the Olympic Stadium, the new modern



Sir Norman Foster's telecommunications tower in Barcelona. The city has been held up as a shining example of design

arts museum and the restored opera house - but many smaller projects, such as the remarkable series of "pocket parks" threaded across the city

sometimes retaining factory walls to create secluded and shaded garden rooms. Having sided with the Communists in the Spanish Civil

investment under Franco, and decades of dictatorship left the city's historic fabric largely intact. Since the death of Franco, regeneration of old quarters, as well as of many famous buildings by the great Art Nou-veau architect Gaudi, has gone hand-in-hand with imaginative work on derelict and empty sites and along the

The one major building in Barcelona by a British archi-tect is the highly acclaimed telecommunications tower by Foster and Partners in the hills behind the city, a commission won against fierce competition

from the leading Spanish ar chitect Santiago Calatrava. The royal gold medal for the promotion of architecture was inaugurated by Queen Victoria in 1848 and is conferred by the Sovereign on a person "whose work has promoted, either directly or indichitecture". The jury is nomi-nated and chaired by David Rock, president of the royal institute, and this year consisted of Peter Carolin, Sir Norman Foster, Sir Michael Hopkins, lan Latham, Stuart Lipton, Amanda Levete and Robert Maxwell.

Olympic leap into the hearts of tourists

By Susie Steiner

TEN years ago it did not even make it into the top ten. Then, in 1992. Barcelona hosted the Olympic Games and this year the city has replaced Vienna as No 4 in the list of Britons' favourite city destinations. Spain's second city is now spun by travel companies as the chic destination of the Nineties. "It is regarded as hip and cool and has a great nightlife," enthused a spokesman for Thomson, Britain's

Barceiona during its Olympic transformation, its change into a big-league resort has not all been for the good. "It has become very shiny and polished and cosmopolitan. its a great European city now, but it used to be a wonderful Spanish one," he said. "The Olympics brought all the multinationals in, like Mc-Donald's, Barcelona spent an absolute fortune on itself, very wisely, beautifying and tart-

"In 1981 you could count the tourists on one hand — they just didn't go there. Now you can't walk down the Ramblas and, if you do, you pay £5 for a coffee. The Olympics an-nounced it to the world."

To feed the new British thirst for Catalonia, flights there have multiplied. In 1996 a total of 401,000 aircraft took tourists to Barcelona. In 1998 the figure was 548,000 — an in-crease of nearly 150,000. Thomson Breakaway Cities is currently selling five times the number of holidays it was

selling in 1994. "It does aston-ishingly well," the company's spokesman said. "Madrid is only No 10 for city breaks." The Catalan capital, with a population of I.S million, gets Costa Brava. David Miró, of the Catalonia Tourist Board.

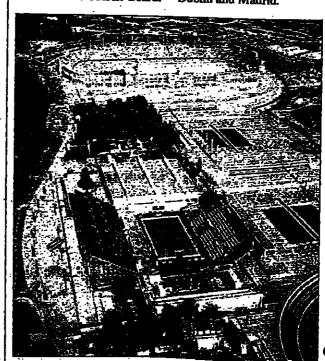


said: "After the Olympics, the city was put on the map. From that moment, we have been a successful tourist city.

whose unfinished Temple de of the Holy Family) draws millions of tourists each year. Its attractions, including

the Picasso Museum, which houses 3,600 of the artist's works, are aided by a temperate climate, easy access to the beach and its bustling main thoroughfare, known as the Rambias, with its street traders and musicians. "It's very arty." Elms said. "It's the city of Picasso, Gaudi and Miró. It's got great architecture, it's right by the sea and it's got mountains behind — what more could you ask for?"

The British love of Barcelona has been increasingly brought home. Pop music lovers will have been aware of reference to Barcelona in the No 1 hit by the Manie Street Preachers, If You Tolerate This, in which they refer to the Rambias. George Orweil immortalised the region with Homage to Catalonia and Whit Stillman's film Barcelona followed the romantic exploits of a group of young Americans in the city. ☐ The top ten city destinations are Paris, Amsterdam, Rome. Barcelona, Bruges, Venice, New York, Prague, Dublin and Madrid.



Barcelona was rejuvenated by the 1992 Olympic Games

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Italy presses for Prodi

IN ROME AND ROGER BOYES IN BONN

ROMANO PRODI, the former Italian Prime Minister, was emerging yesterday as front-runner in the tussle to be European Commission President.

"It seems an understanding is emerging between Bonn. London and Rome, to the exclusion of Paris, one Italian official said yesterday with barely disguised satisfaction.

The need to find a successor to Jacques Santer is the main focus of shuttle diplomacy gripping Europe's capitals. The merits of rival candidates dom-inated talks yesterday between Gerhard Schröder, the German Chancellor, and Massimo D'Alema. Italy's Prime Minister - part of the Chancel-lor's whistle-stop tour of Europe's capitals ahead of next week's European Union sum-

There were signs yesterday that Britain and Germany were increasingly keen to back

JEFF PRESIDENT

candidacy, saying: "It's now or never. We believe Romano Pro-Signor Prodi, a move that threatens to leave the French Government sidelined. Signor di is the right man for the job." Signor D'Alema and Signor Prodi have barely been on Prodi is on good personal terms with Tony Blair, and German sources said that speaking terms since October, when the Prodi centre-left coalition narrowly lost a parlia-mentary vote of confidence over the 1999 budget. But the Herr Schröder also enjoys a good relationship with him. Italians feel aggrieved when feuding and sniping have been Britain, France and Germany

are described as Europe's "Big Three". "Rome backs Prodi for Brussels" was the banner headline in yesterday's Corriere della Sera. Signor Prodi, who still has

political ambitions in Italy. was "pondering" whether to throw his hat into the ring. But La Repubblica noted that the man who, as Prime Minister from April 1996 to October 1998, persuaded Italians to accept austerity meaures to qualify for the single currency was in "pole position". Yesterday Signor D'Alema, who spoke to Mr Blair by tele-

phone on the need for a "quick solution" to the EU's worst in-Anatole Kaletsky, page 24 Leading article, page 25

al integrity".

weight behind Signor Prodi's

Lamberto Dini, the veteran

Foreign Minister — he held the post under Signor Prodi, too — said there had "never

been any doubt" that he was

Italian officials said Signor

Prodi, 59, met Mr Blair's de-

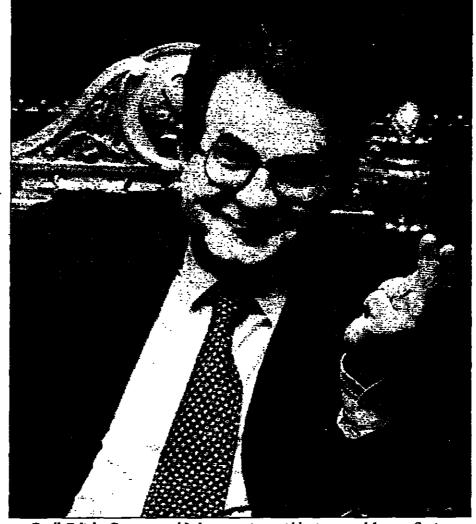
mand that the new President

should be a "real political heav-

for Herr Schröder's call for a

"committed European with political experience, a know-ledge of economics and person-

veight", and was a "photofit"



Prodi: Britain, Germany and Italy appear to want him to succeed Jacques Santer

Whistle-stop tour gives Schröder few solutions

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

GERMANY'S presidency of the European Union seems to be skidding out of control a week before a Berlin summit is supposed to overhaul the financing of the group.

Gerhard Schröder, the

Chancellor, keenly in need of a foreign policy success, yester-day wound up a whistle-stop tour of European capitals without a convincing solution for the crisis prompted by the collective resignation of the Euro-pean Commission.
"This is not a crisis, it is an

opportunity." he said yesterday, repeating words used last week after the equally surprising resignation of Oskar La-fontaine, his Finance Minister. The sudden departure of Herr Lafontaine, the collapse of the Commission and Herr Schröder's increasingly obvi-ous lack of European experience has created a chaotic prelude to what was billed as a make-or-break European reform summit next week.

"There have been too many suicides," said a German official. "Berlin is becoming a BERLIN SUMMIT

crisis-management session rather than the orderly reform summit that was planned." Franco-German ties are at a

low point, Southern states, suspicious of attempts to cut agricultural subsidies, detect a German-led conspiracy. Key figures such as Franz Fischler, the Agriculture Commissioner who helped to break the logjam on a farm deal, are now out of play. Herr Schröder told his coun-

terparts yesterday in Athens and Rome that he had no intention of putting off the Berlin summit. It was more likely that another emergency sum-mit would be held to discuss the future of the Commission. For now he is concentrating on what he can do best: shuffling names. His advisers say that he is trying to persuade leaders to choose the cream of their political class, rather the losers of Cabinet wrangles, as candidates for a new Commission. But he has been unable to find a common line on what should now happen to the Commission.

The Professor takes lessons on Blair's Third Way

he emergence of an Italian as the frontrunner to head the European Commission after a scandal involving alleged fraud and mismanagement might seem paradoxical, given Italy's past reputation for unstable and less than transparent politics.

But Romano Prodi - affec tionately known as II Professore - is widely admired for his honesty and modesty, and his attempts to reform the Italian political system, as well as his achievement in guiding Italy into membership of the euro against the odds.

Almost always unflappable, with a ready smile, Professor Prodi enjoys bicycling, often takes trains and buses instead of official limousines, and (to the detriment of his waistline. though not on the scale of the former German Chancellor, Helmut Kohl), loves the food of his native Bologna, especially Mortadella sausage.

A family man - he and his wife Flavia, a fellow academic. have two sons in their twenties, one of whom has followed his father to the LSE — Signor Prodi is rooted in the Catholicism of Emilia Romagna, and also in its left-wing traditions. He speaks passable English as well as German and French.

During his time in power, Signor Prodi carved an international reputation which belied his earlier reputation as a mild-mannered provincial professor, taking up Tony Blair's concept of the "Third Way" with enthusiasm. "He got a kick out of being in on the dialogue between Blair and Clinton," one Prodi adviser said. "He likes to feel part of the ideological reshaping of the demo-

Underlying Signor Prodis approach was, and is, a fierce pride in Italy coupled with an equally unquestioning commitment to European integration. espoused with a passion which will make him an object of close scrutiny by British Eurosceptics if he does become Commission President, He was driven to get Italy inside the euro, he said recently, by "a realisation that Italy could not miss its appointment with history". Doubts about the curo's weakness or its impact on euroland economies still in need of structural reform (including Italy's) are brushed

aside. As for Britain, Signor Prodi has no doubt that "when the time comes Britons will not want to miss the boat. I do not believe the City of London will want to miss out on the opportunities created by monetary union". He is close to Mr Blair, who reportedly finds Signor Prodi and Flavia congen-ial company. "It is part of the Blairs' love affair with Italy." one Italian official said. Mr Blair and his family have spent the last three summers in Tuscany, and are expected to go there again this summer. The Blairs and the Prodis have

become firm friends. Last summer, in shirtsleeves and chinos, Mr Blair and Signor Prodi (addressing each other as "my dear friend

Richard Owen

on the honest and modest man

> who could lead Europe

Tony" and "Caro Romano" respectively) kunched together in the Italian countryside, happily posing afterwards for photographs "for all the world as if they were English and Italian families who happen to have met up on holiday", as one expat in Tuscany put it. But then Prodi the family man is not a pose: he and his wife have a modest income, and his reputation as a man of integrity and simplicity (they live in a flat in Bologna) has won him respect.

Italy remains permeated by Mediterranean corruption. But Signor Prodi, 59, is one of several figures - Massimo D'Alema, his rival and successor, is another - who embody change in political culture which began in 1992, when the "Clean Hands" anti-corruption campaign led by Milan magistrates brought about the downfall of the Christian Democrats, who had ruled Italy almost without interruption for

nearly half a century. Out of the ashes arose a new Centre-Right, led by Silvio Ber-lusconi, the media tycoon, which briefly held power in 1994: and a new Centre-Left, with the ex-Communist Party of the Democratic Left (PDS) at its core. Since neither Italy nor the world was ready for a Government led by ex-Com-munists, the PDS in 1995 looked for a front man with left-wing views but a solid reputation who could head a centre-left alliance, the Olive Tree.

uch a man was found in Signor Prodi, a bespectacled professor of economics at Bologna University who had studied at the LSE as well as the Catholic University of Milan, and who served as head of IRI, the state company. from 1982-89

Critics said he was a "manager" who lacked political experience, and who was uncomfortable on television. His record at IRI, moreover, was completely untainted: while nobody suggests he profited personally, an investigation was launched two years ago into alleged "abuse of office" by IRI officials, including Signor Prodi. relating to alleged favouritism during the privatisation of a giant stateowned food conglomerate

Voters warmed to his homely style, and in the historic April 1996 poll the Olive Tree won a majority. Outsiders used to mocking Italy's frequent "revolving door" governments predicted a short-lived

administration. But the Prodi Government iasted a near-record two and a

half years. "Everyone keeps asking me about Europe," Signor Prodi said yesterday "I say, yes but what about Italy?

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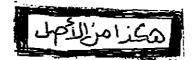




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The fraud report was interfered with between Sunday night and Monday?

This lady's not for burning

EDITH CRESSON responded yesterday, as she has done after almost every chapter of her accident-prone career, by claiming to be the victim of a plot. In an interview, she said that somebody had tampered with the fraud report that led to the European Commission's downfall

A section of the report concering the Leonardo training programme, for which she was responsible, "was inter-fered with between Sunday night and Monday", she told Le Figaro. She had seen a draft of the report on Sunday. but found new wording in the final version on the next day.

"Four paragraphs were modified in a way that was unfavourable to myself and un-truthful," she said. "Someone wanted to make people believe that I had been warned in advance of the malfunctions and that I wanted to mislead the European Parliament. That is an absolute lie."

Mme Cresson, 65, did not tell *Le Figaro* whom she suspected of tampering with the report, but she has previously asserted that she was the target of German intrigue aimed

at damaging France.

Although there was little public support in Paris for Mme Cresson yesterday, French diplomats in Brussels suggested that she had been justified in her claims that the anti-fraud report had been modified at the last moment. They agreed that certain paragraphs had been changed overTHE DEFENCE

Edith Cresson says the evidence

against her has been tampered

> with, writes **Adam Sage**

Cresson are coloured by memories of her time in domestic politics. Blaming others has been a constant feature of her public career, and one that seems to have been adopted by her associates.

Dr René Berthelot, the den-tist reported to have been the beneficiary of Mme Cresson's largesse in Brussels, said last year that she had been turned into a scapegoat in Europe. just as she was when she became French Prime Minis-

ter eight years ago.
In one of the few interviews he has given to the press, he said that he had known Mme Cresson for 20 years and helped her "as a friend" when she was appointed as Europe-an Commissioner. "I have a great liking for her and I was attracted by her dynamism when she was Mayor of Châtellerault", where he lived. Dr Berthelot told Le Figaro.

Mrne Cresson used him to keep an eye on the local council in Châtellerault when she

moved to Brussels. The practice, denounced as nepotism by the fraud inquiry, is common in French politics, where senior figures often occupy sev-

When François Mitterrand chose Mmc Cresson as Prime Minister, in preference to more obvious and heavyweight candidates, there was much surprise in political circles and speculation about their relationship. A rumour they were having an affair was angrily denied by Mme Cresson, although the late President, a celebrated womaniser. never bothered to deny it.

"Isn't she charming?" he once said. A similar rumour has hung over Mme Cresson's friendship with her dentist. French press reports suggest that they were more than friends for a

while and lived together at one stage. But Dr Berthelot insists that their relations have always been platonic. Dr Berthelot was admitted to hospital in December. Press reports said that he had suffered a heart attack, although a family friend, who declined to be named, said yesterday that he had had a nervous

ty Hospital in central France. Before his illness, Dr Berthelot, 70, said of the scandal in Brussels: "This is an attempt to destabilise Edith Cresson.' She has always thought much the same thing and has never been slow to denounce her

breakdown. He is recovering in Poitiers Regional Universi-



Someone wanted people to believe I would mislead Parliament. That is a lie?

Small-town dentist who has gained international fame as a 'friend of Edith'

FROM SUSAN BELL IN CHÂTELLERAULT

CHATELLERAULT'S crumbling town hall was veiled in dusty netpair work as if in mourning for its disgraced former mayor. This sleepy 10th-century French town on the banks of the River Vienne seems an unlikely setting for international scandal.

At first glance, life seemed to be

TALK OF TOWN

cafés and bars that line the narrow streets, groups gathered to discuss in husbed voices Edith Cresson's relationship with the town's grey-haired former dentist which brought about her downfall in

Many in Châtellerault are still bitter at what they consider to be Mme Cresson's abandonment of their town in favour of Brussels

only a few months after they had elected her mayor, leaving her deputy, Joel Tordusson, a doctor with little political experience, to take over. "People feel betrayed," said the owner of the Boulangerie Hen-

Reactions to Mme Cresson's resignation from the European Commission were mixed. Some felt that their abrasive former mayor had finally gone too far and deserved her fate. Others were more forgiving, even suggesting she was the

victim of a European Union plot. As for Dr Rene Berthelot, the former dentist she appointed a scientific adviser to the European Commission, bringing charges of nepotism on herself, he has gained fame in Châtellerault as a "Friend

He was not a member of the Socialist Party and appears content to have taken a back seat in local politics. Yesterday local party mem-bers appeared anxious to portray the man who earned £45,600 a

year from the Commission for doing virtually nothing as a faithful and selfless adviser to the European Commissioner. "He is a comrade of the shadows, a faithful servant who preferred helping his friend without drawing attention to himself without reason," said a local Socialist Party member.

However his friendship and influence over Mime Cresson is common knowledge in the close-knit small-town community "It was said that she did nothing without Dr Berthelot's advice. He was known as her spiritual mentor," Dominique Delplanque, a businesswoman, said of the man who once boasted that he had drawn up Mme Cresson's horoscope.

However, residents stopped short of commenting on speculation that their former mayor's close friendship with a man who stayed frequently at her home in Brussels went any further. That is their business. It is their private life which they have a right to," said a i

retired teacher invoking the French respect for la vie privée. ☐ Web rush: The Internet sites (http://www.europarl.eu.int/experts and http://www2europarl. eu.int/experts) carrying the report on fraud and mismanagement in the Commission registered more than one million hits in their first day, a European Parliament offi-cial said yesterday. "We have not seen traffic like this since the launch of the (Parliament) site." Peter Papamikail said. (Reuters)

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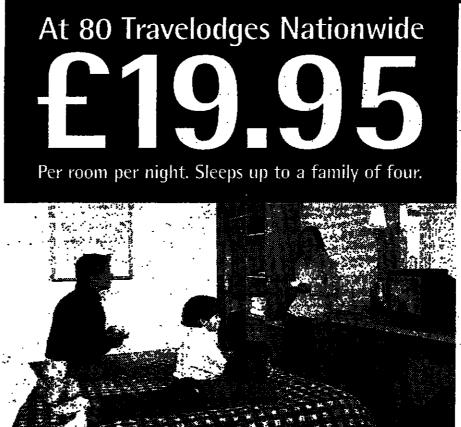
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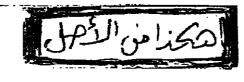
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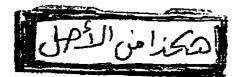
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Chirac accused in sleaze scandal

BY ADAM SAGE

PRESIDENT Chirac was thrust to the centre of a judicial fraud investigation in Paris yesterday as the laxity that has charac-terised French public life came under scrutiny.

The allegations made against M Chirac echo the scandal that hit Edith Cresson in Brussels, with both accused of cronyism and a willful disregard of taxpayers money.

The latest chapter in a

long inquiry into phantom jobs at the Paris town hall reminded voters that M Chirac is a child of the same culture that produced Mme Cresson and his predecessor as head of state, François Mitterrand.

It is a culture dominated by a few people who have worked their way through the meritocratic education system to form a tight-knit caste that believes in its own superiority.
That belief is widely

seen as responsible for the sleaze that engulfed Mme Cresson and her fellow Socialists at the start of the 1990s and that is now lapping around the President's Gaullist movement.

find'

are

Yesterday the newspaper Libération said that an investigating magistrate had obtained a highly compromising letter written by M Chirac when he was Mayor of Paris in 1993. In it, he is said to have asked for the promotion of a woman employed by his Gaullist party but paid by the Paris town hall.

The document suggests the newspaper said, that M Chirac was aware of the phantom-job scandal that is the subject of an inquiry by the Parisian judge.

Patrick Desmure.
The scandal broke when a former Paris employee. Georges Quémar, said the council had funded several worked for centre-right pol-itical parties and never set

COMMISSION IN CRISIS



The condemned Commission gathers round the oval table for its weekly Wednesday session, where it agreed to announce that it had "no intention of remaining in office a moment longer than we have to"

Top table prolongs death agony

The masters of Europe go through the motions of power, Charles Bremner reports

t could have been any Wednes-day at the Breydel building, the Brussels pile recast this week as Europe's Augean stables. At the entrance, drivers polished limousines in milky sunshine while, upstairs on the 12th floor, their masters sat down around their big oval table for their regular weekly session.

Rushing in, Neil Kinnock, Britain's junior commissioner, tried to inject a sense of reality. "It is not. business as usual. It can't be. We resigned on Monday night," he said.

Item number one on the agenda was certainly irregular. After a tour de table, a key European Union ritual in which everyone airs a position, Jacques Santer and his team agreed to announce that they had "no inten-Tonger than we have to". Out of decency, however, they would avoid

the "college of commissioners" proceeded to business, such as approving aid to a Spanish shipbuilder. One item did convey the delicate predicament of the 20 august figures

who were supposed to have become ex-commissioners when they all resigned on Monday. This was a revamped proposal to set up an independent unit to pursue fraud in the Commission, in succession to the unit which failed to pursue fraud in the Commission. The new unit will go under the name of Olaf, which has nothing to do with the spirit of Nordic probity. It is just a French ac-ronym for Office for Fighting Fraud.

their decisions to "the sharks", the

chronicling the supposed death throes of the Santer administration. As the hottest show in Europe, the media room has been augmented by an unusual crowd of voyeurs, including officials who have been transfixed by the crucifixion of their bosses and Mr Santer's unrepentant he Belgian, who enjoys wide

self-mutilation on Tuesday. You did not need a background in Kremlinology to decode the mes-sage in the line-up. After the disaster of his back-from-the-abyss outing on Tuesday, Mr Santer was nowhere to be seen. "We had to keep him hidden, we can't take any more incompetence," said a senior aide to open rebellion against their boss. Instead, the job of keeping the Commission affoat in public had been handed to Karel van Miert, the pugnacious Belgian Commissioner who is responsible for competition. "We have a duty to carry on," he said, "Just because the Commission has resigned does not mean we have to block all business."

respect, was managing fine until he handed over to Anita Gradin, the anti-fraud commissioner whose failure to pursue skulduggery in the Commission was nailed by the outside inquiry. Visibly uncomfortable. Mrs Gra-

din, whose Swedish Government has this week disowned her, then merits of the new independent fraud unit. This, she stressed, would, er .. be appointed by the Commission and would operate within it. Senior

officials rolled their eyes. "Why did they let her open her mouth?"

groaned one Eurocrat. Mario Monti, the Italian (ex)-commissioner in charge of taxes, added to the levity with some elegant irony. The decision to desist from launching any initiatives would, un-fortunately, mean that it would not suggest a delay in the abolition of duty-free, he said. Signor Monti, of course, never had any such aim. He has been infuriating Britain and half-a-dozen other member states for months by refusing demands to call for a change of heart on eliminating the duty-free system. A Commission proposal is the vital first step for any such action.

After a deft compliment to the strongman qualities of Mr van Miert. Signor Monti insisted that they

had to face up to their responsibilities to stay at their desks. "We are not physical fugitives," he said.

Upstairs on the 12th floor, aides were coaching Mr Santer on how not to mess up his latest outing - an appearance on the BBC Nine O'Clock News last night. Not everything, it must be said, was Mr Santer's fault. He was still furning yesterday over a disastrous error by an interpreter on Tuesday. This led to much of the British media quoting him as claiming that the auditors had declared him "whiter than white". In fact, he had been talking, in French, about a specific allegation against his family and what he really said was, "they completely cleared me on that". The damage.

The routine of the phantom Commission is now likely to continue for weeks, if not months, as EU states wrangle over the succession.

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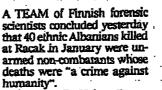


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Kosovo killings hiefs (a crime against humanity)



However, Dr Helena Ranta, who headed the team appointed by the European Union, refused to call the killings a massacre or to blame Serbian security forces — as did William Walker, head of the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe's monitoring mission here in January.

Hamstrung by bitter inter-nal EU divisions, the sensitivity of the continuing Kosovo peace talks amid escalating warfare, and Belgrade's limited tolerance to their presence. the Finns also refused to divulge precise details of how



Ranta: second opinions "always a nightmare"

however, that a second report by the Finns on their post-mortem findings was suppressed a week ago at the behest of Germany, which holds the EU

The first report was a technical evaluation of post morterns for the EU, the Serb investigative judge and the OSCE," said a senior foreign diplomat in Pristina.

The second report, due for the OSCE, drew conclusions, among them that — based on the bullet trajectories — many victims died either kneeling or lying on the ground. A week ago the EU presidency said that that report should not be

The massacre at Racak, about 12 miles south of Pristina on January 15, was the worst single atrocity in the Kosovo conflict and galvanised the laying the foundations for the current peace talks.

In response to Kosovo Liberation Army activity, Serbian

early in the morning. It appears the KLA had withdrawn came upon groups of un-

told nothing contradictory to what we have already discovered," the diplomat said "A bunch of unarmed men were taken by the Serbs up the hill the next day."

At first, the Yugoslav authorities claimed that only 15 men had died and that all were armed "terrorists". They later changed their account to say brought into the area by the Albanians, who had stripped them of KLA uniform and dressed them in civilian

It was a week before the Finns were allowed to carry out their first post-mortem examination, by which time the Serbs had already performed their own operations on 16 of

"If a body has already been once autopsied, it is not that easy to reconstruct," Dr Ranta said. To give a second opinion is a nightmare for every

The Finns were allowed no information from the scene of the killings, and some of the bodies had been shot up to 30 times, and thus were so badly damaged that individual bullet trajectories were difficult to

The team did conclude that there had been no post-killing mutilation of the bodies, and

Nato seeks unity on bombing Serbs

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE EDITOR

NATO meets tomorrow to political elements of the agree discuss appropriate military no prospect of mak-

ment approved in principle at such as the United States and Britain, hope to swing round

the Serbs were still refusing to negotiate on implementing a Kosovo autonomy plan. Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, attends today's peace talks session, with Hubert Védrine, his French counterpart, to see if there is any point in continuing the negotiations.



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Ethnic Albanian women mourn at the funeral in Grajkovac in Kosovo yesterday of four relations who were murdered three days ago

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Six Olympics chiefs ousted in sesso bribes scandal

SIX members were yesterday expelled from the International Olympic Committee (IOC)

NC: i 15 1999.

abour

olice

over the "votes-for-favours" scandal in the biggest crisis in the movement's 106 years.

In all. 20 per cent of the membership of 118 has resigned, been expelled or warned about their conduct since December but lange the since December, but Juan Antonio Samaranch, the IOC president, still received an overwhelming vote of confi-dence in a secret ballot yesterday. He won 86 of the 90 votes

As members left the Palace de Beaulieu many were upset after the seven-hour session. Shunichiro Okano, an IOC member, described the expulsions as making the day "the most painful of my life". The six expelled were smuggled out and driven to Geneva airport without speaking to the media. They had pleaded to remain members of the most exclusive club in world sport, but were overruled because of their alleged improper behaviour in receiving money or favours from Salt Lake City when it bid successfully for the 2002 Winter Olympics.

Samaranch survives latest

purge, writes John Goodbody

in Lausanne

The six were Agustin Arroyo of Ecuador, Zein el Abdin Gadir of Sudan, Jean-Claude Ganga of Congo, Lamine Keita of Mali, Sergio Santander Fantini of Chile and Paul Wallwork of Samoa. Mr Wallwork polled the highest in favour of his remaining, receiving 19 votes with 64 against.

Four other members had already resigned from the IOC after acknowledging their own misbehaviour.

There remains one outstanding case: that of Dr Un-Yong Kim of South Korea, the president of the World Tackwondo Federation and an IOC vicepresident. He is still under investigation for alleged mal-practice and has received the most serious of warnings".





The six victims: top left, Sergio Santander Fantini of Mali. Above: Augustin Arroyo of Ecuador, Zein el

Pound, another IOC vice-president who led the inquiry, replied: "Stay tuned."

Mr Pound and Dr Kim are rivals to succeed Señor Samaranch when he steps down in sure is said to have got to Dr Kim, who has wide support in the Third World. During an executive board meeting on Tues-day he is believed to have squared up to François Carrard, the IOC director-general, adopting a tackwondo stance. M Carrard described the episode yesterday as a "minor incident".

There is a feeling that Third World members had been targeted in the inquiry. Jean-Claude Ganga claimed that there was a plot to get revenge for his having led the boycott of black African nations at the 1976 Olympics.

However, Marc Hodler, the most senior IOC member and the man who blew the whistle on his colleagues last December, said: "It was a good day. I believe justice has been done." Pal Schmitt of Hungary, the

senior - vice-president and twice Olympic fencing champion, said: This was an extraordinary session and it aroused extraordinary feelings. We have the inside strength to renovate our committee." Asked what lessons should be learnt from the episode, he said: "The number one is that we have to come down to earth."

Craig Reedie, one of Britain's two IOC members, said: The vote reinforced my view that the overwhelming number of members want Samaranch to remain."

The IOC members received a letter from the Princess Royal, who is on a tour of the Far East. She suggested that international federation presidents should not be members of the IOC because there was a conflict of interests.



The Olympic flame is carried into the Berlin stadium at the start of the 1936 Games

Gifts from the Nazis lured Games to Berlin in 1936

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

the Interior Ministry to Hit-

ler's chancellery it was made

we're on **your** side

ny" campaign.

FLATTERY, cash gifts and paid holidays were offered by the Nazis to powerful mem-bers of the Olympic movement in their successful attempt to lure the 1936

Games to Berlin. Hitler was determined to make an ideological spectacle of the Olympics — they were supposed to demonstrate the superiority of the "Aryan race" — and no price was too high to secure the support of

the Olympic guardians.
As it turned out, the Nazis did not have to try too hard. fessor Hans Joachim Teichler, of Potsdam University, the International Olympic impression if the Führer Committee was easily swayed could make available an honby the Berlin bid despite a orary donation for the foundvociferous "Boycott Germaer of the Olympics," the memo-

Baron Pierre de Coubertin, Hitler responded to the sugfounder of the modern Olymgestion immediately. Couberpics, was given 10,000 marks tin had supported the Berlin after the Germans heard that Olympics bid all along, believhe was strapped for cash. The ing that Hitler wanted to make a bridge between the French and Norwegians had classical Olympics and the already given him smaller sums, but in a memorandum modern movement. (seen by Professor Teichler) from an under-secretary in

The Germans were grateful. The baron and his family were offered an all-expensespaid health cure in Badenplain that Germany should be Baden as "a sign of gratitude more generous. "It would for his support make an incomparably strong German bid". for his supportive part in the

WORLD IN BRIEF

US general faces jail over affairs

tialled in 47 years has pleaded guilty to having affairs with the wives of four subordinate officers (Damian Whitworth writes). David Hale, who retired as a major-general last year but was recalled to be tried, had consistently protested his in-nocence. He has admitted seven counts of "conduct unbecoming an officer and a gentleman" and one of making false official statements on the eve of his court martial in return for a more lenient sentence. Hale, 53, faces up to 11 years in a military prison as well as a possible loss of rank and re-tirement pay. He has been committed to a general court martial, which is reserved for the military's most serious offences.

Artistic licence

Rome: One panel of Gaetano Previati's triptych, Fall of the Angels, hung upside down for three months in Rome's leading modern art museum until a group of students spotted the blunder. Il Messaggero reported that four female students visiting the National Gallery of Modern Art noticed that the 1912 triptych, which was hung in December, did not match an illustration in the museum guide. Previati was one of the leading artists of the Milan Divisionist school. (Reuter)

Strike halts Quito

Quito: Ecuador descended into social and administrative chaos as millions joined a general strike that paralysed transport and trade, while violent street protests echoed demands for the resignation of President Mahuad (Gabriella Gamini writes). Tens of thousands went into the streets of leading cities, many burning effigies, to protest against the President's harsh austerity measures, including a 165 per cent rise in the price of petrol, after a \$1.2 billion budget deficit.

Rabbi guilty of fraud

right, Israel's leading political kingmaker, was found guilty of bribery, fraud and breaching public trust in a verdict that leading religious Jews said could provoke civil war between those of Oriental and those of European origin (Christopher Walker writes). Supporters of Deri, the leader of Shas, Israel's third largest political party, con-demned "a travesty of justice".

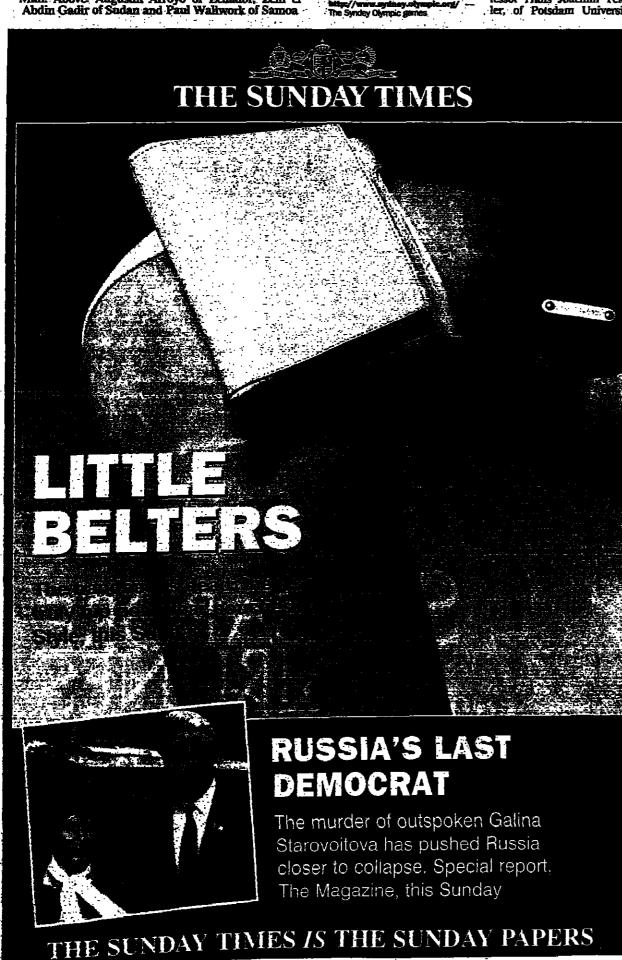


Police chief resigns

Lisbon: Fernando Negrão, head of Portugal's criminal police, was forced to quit after leaks over an inquiry into alleged fraud at a private university suspected of links to Freemasonry (Alison Roberts writes). The last straw was his statement to a television reporter that a report by the secret services, whose existence had been denied, was circulating within his force.

Bitter pill to swallow

Hanover: A German man has been fined for selling blue "Fisherman's Friend" pills claiming they were Viagra sexual potency pills. He persuaded 34 men to part with £2.067 by of fering the tablets through the Internet. They complained when they did not have the desired effect, police said. The man was fined £689 and his computer was seized. (Reuters)





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Weary America set to kill off 'too political' independent prosecutors

AMERICA'S top legal official yes-terday sounded the death knell for the statute that enabled Kenneth Starr, the independent prosecutor. to bring about the investigation. prosecution and impeachment of President Clinton.

Janet Reno, the US Attorney-General, told a Senate hearing that she had decided to oppose renewing the independent counsel statute, passed in the wake of the Watergate scandal to create a powerful and independent legal tool Attorney-General disillusioned by \$50m Starr inquiries, reports Ben Macintyre

for investigating senior office-hold-ers. She said that the process of appointing such investigators had become hopelessly politicised.

According to Justice Department officials, Ms Reno, once a staunch defender of the independent prosecutors' office, had decided that several inquiries, most notably that of Mr Starr, had spun out of control and that the statute was "structurally flawed".

It has become deeply unpopular with most Democratic and Republican leaders in Congress, and the Attorney-General's opposition represents the death blow; it is likely to be scrapped when its term ex-

have spent \$70 million (£43.2 million) investigating Mr Clinton and various members of his Administration, persuading most Democrats of the view, long held by Re-publicans after investigations during the Reagan-Bush years, that the office has become an expensive and uncontrollable anachronism. The statute was passed 21 years ago, after Richard Nixon fired the Watergate investigator Archibald

pires on June 30. No fewer than cox, to allow objective, apolitical seven independent prosecutors to conduct investigations into suspect activities by toplevel officials within the Adminstration. Instead, opponents argue, the office has become unwieldy, unfair and open to abuse.

Ms Reno is believed to be particularly frustrated with Mr Starr. who spent five years and some \$50 million investigating Mr Clinton, beginning with the Whitewater real estate deal but finally focusing on the Monica Lewinsky affair.

office, Ms Reno felt that individual prosecutors were liable to become loose cannons. "Some of the special prosecutors ... ended up taking a very simple, narrow issue and turned it into a long, drawnout investigation that often seemed to stray from the original man-

date," one official said. The existing statute requires the Attorney-General to refer investigations to external prosecutors whenever specific and credible charges

was designed to keep the Justice Department away from political controversy, but since the Attorney-General is the sole authority able to decide when an independent investigation is warranted, it had precisely the reverse effect.

Ms Reno's opposition represents a remarkable personal volte-face. In 1993 she argued that, while the independent counsel statute had certain flaws, it was necessary and

liable to foster public confidence.

MI6 'proposed Iraqi coup' to topple Saddam

BRITISH intelligence encouraged the United States to seek a "quick, simple coup" in Iraq through an opposition group that Britain had created and which later mounted a failed effort to overthrow President Saddam Hussein, a former senior United Nations inspec-

Scott Ritter, writing in his new book, Endgame, says that in the mid-1990s MI6 pushed the Central Intelligence Agency to shift its support from the Iraqi National Congress. which was recruiting an army in Kurdish-held northern Iraq, to the rival Iraqi National Accord (INA), which was based in Jordan

"More and more, the CIA was being wooed by the British secret intelligence service, or MI6, which proposed a quick, simple coup, orchestrated from within by military officers close to Saddam," he writes. "Such was the offer being presented by the rival opposition group, the INA. The CIA began supporting both factions, but putting the bulk of its effort behind the INA."

Mr Ritter describes the INA as a "creation of the British MI6" and says it consists of "former military personnel who had defected from Iraq

and who were hoping to take advantage of their old contacts at home". Although the INC had amassed 10,000 men to stage a ground war from northern Iraq, the CIA changed policy on the eve of the planned battle in March 1995 and told the group's London-based leader. Ahmed Chalabi, that it would not pro-

vide military assistance. Mr Chalabi launched the attack anyway, but his Kurdish allies split and an Iraqi counter-offensive routed his forces. In early 1996, the CIA was ordered to develop a

Ritter: notes failure of CIA and MI6 coup bids

"avick-fix" solution to get rid of Saddam before the American presidential elections the following November and "the

only option was the INA". The book records the INA's failed attempt to get members of the Republican Guards to stage a coup - a plot that was foiled in June 1996 when the Iragis intercepted CIA-supplied communications gear.

Mr Ritter says he suspects that a UN inspections mission at the time, known as Unscom 150, might have been used as cover by the CIA to help to execute the planned coup. Unknowingly, he led his team against the same Special Republican Guard facilities involved in the plot. The team included nine "CIA paramilitary covert operators", including an operative he calls "Moe Dobbs", a US Army Special Forces veteran who had played a critical role supporting the Contras in Nicaragua and had spent the Gulf War in Syria directing Arab agents inside Iraq.

There is virtually no chance that opposition groups could overthrow Saddam," Mr Ritter writes. "Attempts by the CIA and the British MI6 to orchestrate a coup from within all met with disaster."



Jackie Chan, centre, the Hong Kong film star, is joined by Tony Leung, left, a fellow actor, and Tsui Hark, film director, at a demonstration calling on the Government to take tougher action against illegal copying of their work. The territory's 73 cinemas closed for the day in support of the protest.

Industry leaders say piracy, rife in Hong Kong, is costing them 60 per cent of their turnover and threatening thousands of jobs

First black grandmaster learnt chess from library book

By JAMES BONE

A JAMAICAN immigrant in New York who taught himself chess from a library book and on the Internet has become the world's first black grandmaster. Maurice Ashley became the 470th person to receive the game's highest rank when he won enough points in a tournament game at the Manhattan

Chess Club to qualify for the honour. "I'm numb from the neck down and giddy from the neck up," Mr Ashley, 32, who runs an after-school chess club for youngsters in Harlem, said.

He started playing at what is considcred the late age of 14 when a friend at his high school in Brooklyn challenged him to a game and "totally destroyed" him. Determined to salvage his pride,

library and pored over strategies and gambits. He joined his school's chess club, but was not good enough to make the first team, but went on to become head of his college chess association.

He also joined the Black Bear School of Chess, a group of young black chess fanatics in Brooklyn. Mr Ashley coached two Harlem youth teams to

Mr Ashley got a chess book from the library and pored over strategies and and three of his players won individual championships. Two years ago he began training to become a grandmaster, spending six hours a day studying moves on his computer and live games on the Internet.

"My success will show black youngsters that they can be successful at any intellectual pursuit," he said.

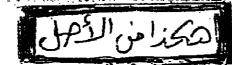




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Eritreans claim border rout of Ethiopian force

FROM ROBIN LODGE IN NAIROBI

ERITREA said yesterday that it had routed a force of 40,000 Ethiopian troops in three days of border fighting this week, leaving hundreds of bodies and 50 burnt-out tanks scattered around the

itors

The latest clashes between the two sides, who resumed fighting along the disputed border last month after an eight-month lull, took place on the Tsorona front, 60 miles southwest of the Eritrean capital, Asmara, where the Ethiopians have been trying to retake territory seized by the Eritreans last year. A similar Ethiopian offen-

sive last month at Badme, about 100 miles to the northwest succeeded in driving Eritrean forces several miles back, albeit at a heavy cost. With both sides dug into

irenches in mountainous terrain, attackers are exposed to vithering fire and almost certain to suffer heavy casualties. The indications are that this is what happened on the Tsorona front, but that the Ethiopians failed to seize the Eritrean trenches. Journal on the Tsorona front.

ists taken to the front by the Entreans on Tuesday reported sceing at least 300 Ethiopian bodies and scores of destroyed tanks, many still

An Ethiopian government spokeswoman. Selome Ta-desse, dismissed the scenes displayed by the Eritreans as a public relations exercise.

She said: "Whatever the Eritrean Government might might produce to back up its incredible assertions, one can be fairly sure that it is just the latest round in the deception and fabrication."

She added that many Eri-treans had died in the fighting. The Eritreans gave no details of their own losses.

Both sides have accepted a peace plan by the Organisation of African Unity, calling for the withdrawal of troops from the disputed area pending mediation. The Eritreans have since called for a ceasefire, but the Ethiopians insist that they first withdraw from territory around Zalambesse



Suu Kyi's husband denied last visa

BY MICHAEL DYNES

MICHAEL ARIS, the British husband of Aung San Suu Kyi, the Burmese opposition leader, is pleading with the military authorities in Ranafter being diagnosed as seri-

ously ill with cancer. Mr Aris, a fellow of St Antony's College, Oxford, who married in 1972, has been told that he is suffering from prostate cancer which has spread to his spine and lungs. He is not expected to live long, sources close to the family said.

It is understood that Mr Aris is desperate to see his wife one last time. But the military egime, which has refused to issue him with a visa for the past three years, is insisting nis wife be the one to travel.

Daw Suu Kyi, who won the 991 Nobel Peace Prize for her courage in defying military rule, has applied for a visa on her husband's behalf, but there has been no response. She has not left the country for II years, fearing that she would never be allowed back. The state-controlled media

called repeatedly for Daw Suu Kyi to leave or be expelled.

Organs of orphans 'sold to wealthy'

EGYPTIAN prosecutors yesterday began an investigation into allegations that 25 children died after a charity sold them to private hospitals for use in organ transplants.

The allegations were made in a complaint laid before the public prosecutor by MPs representing Menousieh district in the Nile delta, where the

The MPs claimed that 25 out mg a three-month period last year, after their organs were sold to rich patients for up to £20,000. The charity, which runs a facility known locally as the Foundlings' Village in Quweisna, was set up to look after illegitimate children

abandoned by their mothers. Egyptian officials yesterday confirmed that there had been abnormal deaths among children cared for by the association, but they denied that transplants were involved.

The Ministry of Social Af-

Inquiry launched into why children in Egypt died after being sent to private clinics, writes Jim Muir

investigated two related Men-outlieh charities, one run by a former television producer and the other by his wife, after complaints of irregularities, including the death of an unspec-

The ministry's investigations concluded that the deaths were caused by gross negligence. "But all the deaths were from natural causes. there were no transplants, and the hospital records prove this," Anwar Sharif, an official

spokesman, said yesterday. The reports also concluded that both charities were guilty of financial and administrative irregularities. Their boards of directors were both dissolved in November and

December on the orders of the

fairs confirmed that last year it local Governor, Adli Hussein. He also issued a denial last night that the children died as

Transplanting organs as the MPs claim requires very of 32 children little in by the little number of children and specific medical conditions.

Association fair the Care of the falsification of at least one and facilities — it could not possibly be done here in Mensibly be done here in Men-outleh," he added.

the victims of organ trans-

But one of the MPs, Ibrahim Genainah, repeated the accu-sations. "I am fully convinced that the children died because of transplants," he said. "The serial numbers on the death certificates of the 25 dead children were all in sequence. That does not make sense. What we say is that there has

been a crime." The allegations came as parliamentarians were divided over controversial draft legislation which would permit organ transplants from newly-dead donors under strictly con-

At present, such operations are illegal in Egypt except for cornea grafts and kidney and bone marrow transplants from live donors - provided

no money changes hands and the recipient is Egyptian. The head of the Egyptian Medical Association, Dr Ham-di al-Sayyid — himself an MP and a keen advocate of the transplant Bill — said yester-day he believed the allegations about the children were part of a campaign to head off the legislation. Some Islamists believe any kind of transplant

breaches religious law.

"I am very sceptical about the accusations and I don't believe it," he said. "I think they have brought this up now because of the debate over the new Bill. We are responsible for the medical profession in this country, and we have a detailed list of every transplant that takes place."

☐ Jim Muir is the BBC's Middle East correspondent,

THE TIMES

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CHANGING TIMES

Allan Boesak, who enjoyed a lavish lifestyle, leaves court yesterday

Boesak found guilty of stealing children's cash

FROM SAM KILEY IN JOHANNESBURG

ALLAN BOESAK, the South African

cleric and close friend of Nelson Mandeia, was convicted yesterday of stealing donations that were intended for child victims of apartheid.

Boesak, once a leading cleric in the anti-apartheid struggle, was convicted of three charges of theft and one of fraud. He stole \$72,000 (£44,000) of a \$200,000 donation to his Foundation for Peace and Justice by the American singer Paul Simon, said Judge John Foxcroft at Cape Town High Court. He also defrauded the Swedish Gov-

erroment of \$226,000, which he used to build a studio for his second wife, Elna, a former television personality. He also stole from his own charity.

He was acquitted on 23 other charges of fraud and theft and will be sentenced. next week. In his ruling Mr Foxcroft

said: "The accused wrongfully and unlawfully appropriated money intended for children of South Africa. He treated the money as his own."

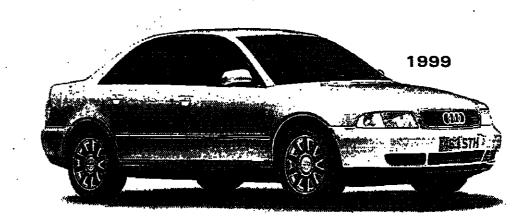
Boesak sat stony-faced as the verdict was read out. His many friends in the ruling African National Congress, who had supported his claims of innocence and had cleared him of any wrongdo-ing in an inquiry, were absent. His mentor, President Mandela, last year made several impassioned appeals for donations to a defence fund for Boesak. Prosecutors, who endured criticism from ANC stalwarts, said Boesak used

The verdict comes as Justice Willem Heath, who heads investigations into corruption, faces unprecedented ministerial criticism for his apparent success in exposing graft. The attacks have led to dismay and accusations among South Africans that the ANC is presiding over a moral decline in public life

the money to fund a lavish lifestyle.



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Trea

Go for a ba

Big wheels don't drive Fiestas

We are a nation obsessed by rank and place. In suburbia there is no better indicator of class than your car, says Celia Brayfield

tem. For the past couple of years we have been in so-cial anarchy. We have struggled to comprehend the poshness of Posh Spice, the elitism of Beryl Bainbridge, the unsportsmanlike actions of the Chelsea defender Graeme Le Saux.

Today accent, manners, education, heritage or use of fish knives are meaningless. The post-Marxian eat-the-rich snobbery that valued a regional accent, rudeness and lack of education as sure-fire signs of per-sonal integrity got its UB40 with old Labour. Our class system runs counter to income, so the marketing bands ABC1 to C2DE,

based on earnings, nev-er really worked for us. **Executives** We became a nation of niche markets, cult followings, microtrends, mini-celebs and manwon't be aged information in seen in which, for a while, no-body knew who they were any more, let alone anything how to express their identity. The British less than a can't handle this; we need to define ourselves in hierarchical terms. Lexus This is about security. not domination. We

not so that we can be high in it, but so that we can know our place.

want a system of rank

Then we're happy.
Roll on the car. Vehicles are the new class indicator, and Brookside Nation, a survey of suburban attitudes conducted by the advertising agency Abbott Mead Vickers, proves it. Listening to Budget analysts last week, it was clear the agency was spot on. Every reporter used car ownership to evoke a social grade. A tabloid took White Van Man to Downing Street to park outside No 11, while the financial supplements worried that Mondeo Man was being squeezed until his trims squeaked. Commentators opined that Mr and Ms BMW would have to forgo their upgrade next year, and gave the Range Rovers new tips on tax avoidance.

The agency, desperate to map out some kind of mass market among our choice-crazed population, focused on the six million people living on new housing estates. With a statistical analysis backed up by focus groups spread over the South

ritain has a new class sys- East, Midlands and North, they probed the tastes and values of estate dwellers and discovered that the car said it all. In the new Britain you are what you drive. It really is that simple. The Brooksiders held it to be an article of faith that "you can judge a person by the car they "that a car is just something that gets you from A to B".

The great thing about cars is that by adding and subtracting gadgets you can create a caste system more intricate than that of India. It is widely believed in the motor trade that models sold in Britain come in more variations than anywhere else in Europe, because of

our desperate need to display our precise so-cial status. The survey found the Brooksiders were acutely aware of every detail and nuance of car design - the letters after the model name on the boot conveyed as much social context as Jeeves could deduce from the buttons on a Savile Row suit.

In new neighbourhoods built Americanstyle without fences or hedges, displaying the car is an essential ritual. None of the folk in focus groups

kept their cars in their garages; they kept them in their drives, where they were lovingly and regularly groomed. Why would people who could easily run to a platinum token for the car wash waste their precious leisure time messing around with hoses, sponges and bottles of car polish? They definitely preferred to wash their cars by hand, and even washed them in the rain.

Washing the car was clearly a way of drawing the neighbours' attention to it. The consumption of car polish correlated to the value of the house — the richer the family, the more they polished their car. People who did not polish their cars were deemed nutters. White Van Man, lacking a driveway, compensates by turning on his radio to blast thundering hip-hop down the street while he's busy with the leather. People discuss each other's cars

exactly as the apostles of Nancy Mitford and John Betjeman once talked about toilets and note-paper versus lavatories and writing paper. One



Washing the car draws the neighbours' attention to it. The consumption of polish correlates to the value of the house — the richer the family, the more they polish their car



You can tell he's posh: David Beckham and his new Jaguar

Nation the man of the house is the

breadwinner and drives, or aspires

to, a Rover 600. Mercedes, Range

Rover or BMW, while his wife will

fall behind in her career at the start of their family and is content to

sling her gym bag into a frivolous 4x4, a Suzuki Vitara or Rav 4. One

of the agency's focus groups was fix-

ated by a particular neighbour,

car per adult is required and wealthier families are twice as likely as other people to have three cars per household. Newness is all, and people who drive old vehicles are seen as morally unsound. Children are given cars as soon as they get their provisional licences.

This class system is largely un-touched by feminism. In Brookside

judged a total slapper for having a Ford Fiesta and living with a man who drove a 5-series BMW. Who did she think she was? demanded the goodwives of Brookside Nation. Not that there's anything wrong with Ford Fiestas as such . . .

This culture first took root in the heartland of the motor industry, the Midlands, and its spread has been reinforced by American assimila-tion of British business. Companycar ownership creates micro-cultures in all workplaces. Employees value themselves according to what they can choose from the corporate fleet. It is a reliable status stem, but not proof against social climbers. Some companies operate an overt dividend system, letting people pay extra to upgrade a vehicle. Others operate the same policy covertly; only the fleet manager knows which executives have paid to drive something more flash than their entitlement. Strong men weep if their company cars are downgraded, though some camouflage

their income by driving down like a fortysomething marketing hotshot trying to hide his age by choosing the same plain Vanxhall as his twentysomething rivals.

For maximum status a car's value must be displayed externally but you can make only so many state-ments with alloy wheels and xenon headlamps. At BMW, where 65 to 70 per cent of business in Britain involves company cars, the letters SE, for special equipment, are used on the most sought-after models. This allows invisible extras such as airconditioning to be advertised.

he new class system has no ceiling: whatever your status, the need to show it never wanes. A chauffeur who drives chief executives from one boardroom to another knows men who refuse to go to meetings if the car assigned to them is "anything less than a Lexus or Jaguar". The arts seem to be the only cor-

zone - people don't own books, don't go to cinema or theatre, don't hang pictures because the nails the plaster. Houseproud though they are, design means nothing to them. So cars are their only means of expressing themselves.

But in the arts self-expression is a way of life, and car culture doesn't count "It's almost the reverse," says

a film art director who until recent-

Brookside Nation is an arts-free

ly drove a 14-year-old Range Rover and had a museum-age Morris Estate for his wife. "You're not deemed a failure if you turn up in an old car. In fact, you don't want to drive anything ostentatious or expensive, it makes people envious. It's unwise in such an unstable business." So that's all right then. I have an eight-year-old Daihatsu Fourtrak

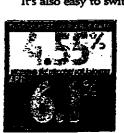
TX. I know my place. I look up to him, because he has a new BMW 750 il. but look down on her, because she has a Ford Fiesta. A nasty couple of years there but it's all sortner of society outside this system. ed now. Phew.

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Fighting the plastic pirates

Clare Hogan lost £2,500 from her credit card while it stayed in her purse

he first time it happened I nearly had a heart attack. In five days A.N. Other had spent £2,500 on my credit card, buying clothes, shoes, a bicycle and sports and computer equipment from shops in Ilford, East London. My card had not left my purse.

When it happened a second time last week, six years later, I was more sanguine. This time it was just £10.95 and the card company phoned me on the day that the transaction went through. The man said he thought that my card had been "compromised". Had I bought anything through an

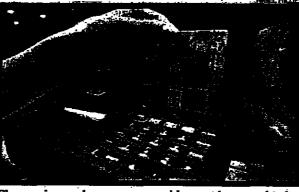
Internet site in California? Yet again my card had not been stolen, so how was the company alerted to the fraud so quickly?

My first thought was that since I am a shopper of habit — train fares. Sussex Farm Foods, my local garden nurs-ery - something as exciting as an Internet purchase would. stand out. I was right. I am a boring shopper, but it didn't take an army of bank staff to sift through individual

accounts to find out. A year ago my bank took delivery of a computer system called Falcon and it has been watching me closely ever since. Joy Przeczek, the senior manager of fraud strategy and card services at NatWest, says that the bank has a profile of the spending habits of each customer and "a profile of a fraud spend". All day, every day "the computer compares the two and we contact the cardholder if we have any doubts". NatWest has about 16 million credit and debit card transactions a month and the new system looks at about

eight million of them. According to the Association of Payment Clearing Services, card fraud in Britain cost £135 million last year.

"All the major issuers have Falcon or something similar." says Ms Przeczek. "Because



Clean swipe: make sure your card has not been read twice

and more organised, you are only as good as your weakest link. All financial institutions in Britain share information on fraud because it is a noncompetitive issue. America has had something like Falcon for about two years and Germany and France have in-

How were the criminals able to get the details of my card? No one could give me a definite answer but, since it is a gold card with a fairly high credit limit, it must be on any criminal's wish list. At least I got my money back in full on both occasions

Fraud falls into several catpresent (when you pay by mail, telephone or on the inter-net); and card not received (when your new card never

ounterfeiting cards — known as skimming is a growing problem for banks. Criminals caneither alter existing cards this despite the fact that at least seven safeguards, such as the hologram, have been built into the card - or create new cards with your details on them. Counterfeiting is linked to international criminals, including Triad gangs. One reason why major issu-

card in sight, particularly when paying, is that retailers with criminal links can swipe a card through a payment machine twice - once for your bill, the second time on a different machine that will take all your details. These can then be. passed on to counterfeiters who will make a new card. Because the card is new, anyone can sign it and use it.

After the first credit card

ers suggest that you keep your

fraud I was told by someone in the banking industry that some counterfeit cards were

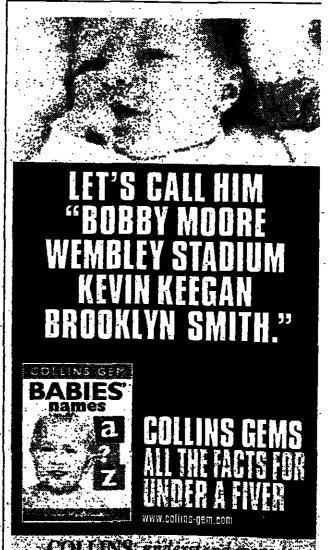
brought over from the Far-

East and could be bought for

Ms Przeczek says that banks are making the most of Fal-con. Added to that, in the next two or three years "we expect to start rolling out chip and smart cards that will be even more secure". Has the internet made things easier for crimi-nals?"The number of disputed transactions is increasing," she says.

then to throw them away.

When I told friends about the call from the bank, everyone had a story to tell: of an uncle whose gold card had been used to buy a Rolex in Hong Kong, and a stolen card that was used a year later. I expect the next criminal using my card to do something a lit-tle more spectacular, if only to £50 each. Buyers were told to liven up my buying profile.



Treating a stammer



cently met a taxi driver who was unusually lent. But even the most reticent of drivers needs to ask for a fare. Palin noticed that he stammered, and politely suggested that his life might be easier if he attended the

Michael Palin Centre for Stammering. This has been developed by the Association for Research into Stammering Children in partnership with Camden and Islington Community Services.

Palin's father was a stammerer. Not only did the driver stammer but also his wife and two of his children. The centre, which normally treats people aged from two to 18, believes in treating the whole family. The driver is therefore to be enrolled with his children and wife for speech therapy. The belief that stam-

mering children are anxious and stammer because they are afraid of the

impact of their opinions is no longer accepted. The current perception is that there is a genetic susceptibility to stammering, and that it is not that anxious children stammer, but that once they have been pilloried for stammering they be-come anxious, which makes the condition worse. Stammering bears no relationship to intellectual ability or the age at which a child learnt to speak.

Lena Rustin, the centre's consultant speech and language therapist and a pioneer in this therapy, says it is essential to treat each child as an individu-

ate

Dr Thomas Stuttaford reports on a speech therapy centre; why washing up is so vital to those with allergies; mental illness and brain scans; planning for a millennial baby; and eczema

al. Parents, who usually have en an intensive course of therathe greatest influence, are in-volved in every stage. The therpy, at the end of which he was speaking as fluently as the rest of the class. His confidence grew and he made a cheeky re-mark, which had previously been beyond his ability. apy is thus not imposed from outside the family circle, but generated within it.

Both the stammerer and family are assessed in detail, which takes at least three hours. This reveals any family history of speech disorder, ten-

mer reappeared. He returned for treatment. All went well for three months, when the pattern was repeated. The parents took a firm line with the school and all was

The teacher made humiliat-

ing comments about his new-

found fluency and the starn-

Treatment should start early, preferably before schooling starts, so that the child is fluent by the time classes begin. Lena Rustin emphasises the importance of specialised assessment. Children begin to stutter at any ime but usually between the ages of two and five, when "physiological stuttering affects many: Most out-

grow it, but the deci-

sion as to who will and sions within the family that the child's problem may have won't stammer is one for an expert. When talking to a staminduced or vice versa, and tenmerer, concentrate on what, sions that are being eased by not how, they are speaking. the stammer. They quote one case in which a marriage was Don't guess what they want to say and say it for them. Don't look away, and do slow down your rate of talking so that the held together by a mutual in-terest in the child's stammer. The child responded to speech child doesn't have to keep up with you. Reduce the questherapy, the stammer disaptions and don't interrupt. Alof conversation. Such children should have some uninterrupt-

> for Stammering Children (0171-530 4238)



Cleaning up: never skimp on washing-up and always cook allergens, such as shellfish and peanuts, separately

Washing up and allergies

THE United Kingdom, like America, has a Surgeon General at the Ministry of Defence. Air Marshal John Baird is Surgeon General but the decision to extend his tenure by a year might well have been defeated by an inadequately washed cooking pot on a train in Germany. As usual Air Marshal Baird chose

his dinner with care and asked for a beef goulash. Beef seemed pretty safe. He wasn't worried about BSE, his concern was that he was allergic to all shellfish and that the allergy, which appeared 30 years earlier while he was in Sarawak, Malaysia. was now so severe that a mouthful of lobster could be fatal.

Air Marshal Baird was met by his driver and his wife, Mary, but they had not driven far when his face started to swell, he couldn't breathe and collapsed unconscious. The driver found a lay-by where the Air Marshal's wife, a former theatre nurse, applied external cardiac massage. A paramedic team was soon on the scene, adrenaline was administered, shocks delivered to restore the heartbeat, and an intravenous line inserted into a vein. The Air Marshal survived. Fortunately, we can be certain that his intellect won't have been damaged and he will carry out his duties as successfully as before. We know this because as he started to come round in the German hospital, he tested his cognitive powers by running through the long Latin names for all the birds he watches on the Norfolk

Why did he collapse? A week before, the pot in which the beef had been cooked had been used to prepare a prawn stir-fry. The lesson of the Air Marshal's perilous experience is twofold.

Those who are in danger of severe allergy should always carry adrenaline — he now has a loaded syringe in his inner pocket. The second lesson is to never skimp on washing up and to always use separate pots when cooking potent allergens such as shellfish

peared and the marriage dis-solved, at which point the stammer reappeared. Whereas most parents are protective, some teachers withed parental attention. draw from the child or become angry. This increases the child's anxiety and stammer.

Michael Palin: his father stuttered

• The Michael Palin Centre

An end to itching

A RECENT survey by the National Eczema Society suggests that the most trying aspect of the condition is the itch. And the more that sufferers itch, the more they scratch. Antihistamines taken by mouth are useful in treating the itch but many cause sedation (those that don't also fail to ease the irritation), while those in

cream form are ineffective.

Xepin (doxepin hydrochloride), a tricyclic antidepressant in cream form, is very effective in breaking the vicious itch-scratch cycle. In several patients the itch did not return after the treatment was stopped. Xepin - an HI antagonist and also an H2 blocker - interferes with the action of acetylcholine, a neurotransmitter involved in the production of the itch. Xepin may be absorbed into the circulation in tiny quantities and so, as with antihistamines, some 15 per cent of patients may become slightly

prescription for those over 12.

Very occasionally Xepin causes skin inflammation, but this is usually mild and soon clears up. Xepin is available only on

One ten-year old boy was giv-Assessing the brain Go for a baby on April 8 DR TONMOY SHARMA, a be obtained so that the

THOSE who run Classic FM are better musicologists than they are gynaecologists. They arranged a programme of soft. romantic but, of course, cultured music to encourage their listeners to procreate, so that the world's population of Classic FM listeners might be supplemented by a bumper birth rate on the first day of the millennium. There was also the altruistic motive of helping mothers to produce a child who would always have

an historic birth date. The musicologists have chosen two different days for special arrangements of romantic picces. Initially, Saturday March 20 was the designated date but now it is Sunday

A quick check with Down's Surgical Gestation Calculator makes nonsense of the first. date and suggests that the sec-ond will be a little late, but precision is impossible.

An expected date of delivery is worked out from the first day of a woman's last period and not from the date that con-



A baby in 2000 needs timing

ception is likely to have occurred. If, say, a woman is to have her baby on January 1, the first day of her last period should be on March 25 or 26 this would certainly exclude March 20 as the day for the

Ovulation occurs about a fortnight after the first day of the last period, and this is the time for the romantic music. My calculator tells me that the orchestral accompaniment should be billed for April 8 or 9. April 11 might be too late.

consultant psychiatrist and the director of cognitive psy-chopharmacology at the Maudsley Hospital, recently manned. Each scan will give an indication of how a particular part of the brain was working at a particular time.

showed journalists scans of the brain at work. In many brain diseases a scan of the brain's component parts in action differs from one taken of someone lacking the symptoms of mental disease. Up to now much of psych-iatry has been subjective.

But now technology can demonstrate that many peculiarities have their origin in aberrant function and not in a faulty upbringing. FMRI functional magnetic resonance imaging — scans can define the nature of some diseases afflicting the most crucial of all human organs, and the influence that any

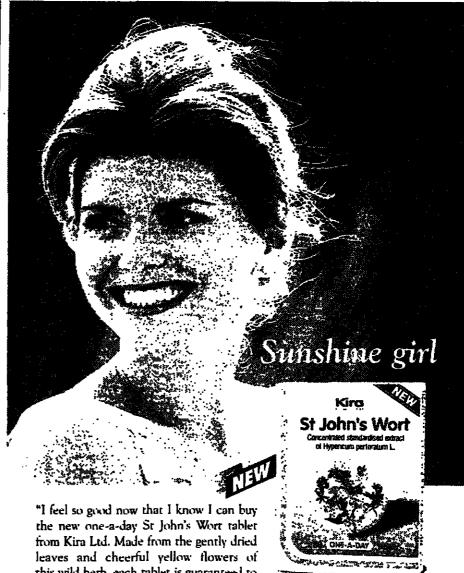
treatment may have.
The advantage of FMRI scanning is that unlike positron emission tomography (PEI) scanning, there is no radioactivity involved; colourful pictures of the brain working out a mathematical problem can be obtained without any danger to the patient. Serial scans can also

course of a disease, with or sound cortical reserve (they without treatment, can be are pretty bright), the loss may not show initially but does show as the disease

Dr Sharma, using his This advance in neuro-FMRI scanner, has demonpsychiatry is timely as it coinstrated similarities and difcides with the introduction of ferences in the loss of cognikinder medication in the tive function in both diseases treatment of schizophrenia - even different parts of the and a host of other diseases, brain are affected. We know that the early treatment of including some aspects of Alzheimer's disease. These schizophrenic symptoms may prevent their advance. atypical antipsychotics do not merely treat the sympand it seems likely that this will apply to Alzheimer's. toms but alter the way in which the brain works and Dr Chris Manning, one of

the founders of PriMHE (Pri-mary Care Mental Health may prevent the disease from progressing. Dr Sharma studies cogni-Education), which provides education in psychiatry for healthcare workers, says: tive impairment in both schizophrenia and Alzheimer's. Cognitive ability com-"Dr Sharma's meeting is, perhaps, the most exciting I prises knowing, thinking, learning, judging, forward planning, speech and the have attended. The knowledge that mental illness reability to recognise and procsults from definable disease and not from a failure of peress a complex task in the sonality should remove much of its stigma." time available. IQ tests should assess these abilities. Each attack of schizophrenia deprives a patient of six points in his or her IQ score

 Dr Tonmoy Sharma, Institute of Psychiatry:



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but, just as with Alzheimer's,



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Salmond spends a costly penny

The Scots are being asked to

stump up for nationalism

ust as hostilities are declared in Brussels, Downing Street has had to open second front in Scotland. The big battalions have been sent across the border, and reinforcements summoned to contain an unexpected flanking attack. Unless it can be cut off rapidly, it might just break through the forward echelons and hit the main division of Labour's standing army, pain-

fully, in the rear.
With 50 days to go to the first Scottish elections, the awful whiff of defeat hangs like cordite in the air. How else to explain the Chancellor's hurried journey north, his greatcoat slung across his shoulders. Napoleon-style? The grim press conference, the terse response to media questions: the wheeling out of business leaders to predict the dangers ahead; the Prime Minister himself announcing. in Churchillian tones: "I urge the Scottish people not to put their future at risk."

All this because the Scottish National Party has announced that it intends to raise, not lower, taxes. At its conference in Aberdeen last week, it said that, if elected, it would forgo Gordon Brown's lp reduction in basic income tax, and use the revenue to invest in public services. The SNP calculates that this will be a relatively painless process for the average taxpayer, and will provide an extra £700 million during

the first term of a Scottish parliament for education, health or housing. It plays on the belief that the Scots, unlike the English, are willing to pay more in tax in return for higher state investment.

This is a massive gamble. It cuts right across the tactics adopted hitherto by Alex Salmond, the SNP leader, which

wooing the business vote. His instinct had been to present the SNP as a modern social democratic party, keen to build an enterprise economy and to use the Scottish parliament to put Scotland at the forefront of technological development. There was much talk of another "Celtic tiger" after the Irish model. Enterprise, compassion, democracy was the fine slogan it adopted,

with enterprise coming first. But the fine rhetoric was not proving a notable winner in those parts of Scotland where the SNP has to pick up votes if it is to stand any chance of overhauling Labour — the former industrial areas of Glaseow, the West of Scotland and the Central Belt. This was reckoned to be classic "old Labour" territory, ripe for SNP inroads. An analysis of the party's prospects, however, using the additional member system, which will determine the number of secondvote seats to be won, showed that although the Nationalists stood second in a number of key constituencies, they were losing ground and would not pick up enough support to beat their principal rivals.

Then, listening to the Budget last week, John Swinney, the SNPs Treasury spokesman, thought he detected a Labour own-goal. By announcing his tax reduction, Mr Brown offered the SNP what seemed a golden opportunity

of raising a tax which would leave no Scot worse off — simply not as well off as their English counterparts. For most of the party faith-

ful in Aberdeen last week, it sounded like a godsend. A buoyant Mr Salmond announced a whole range of public projects - free tuition fees, scrapping the tolls on the Skye Bridge, linking every school to the Internet, more books for schools and libraries, almost as if he had won the National Lottery. He also raised the biggest cheer of the day by promising to scrap Trident in a nuclear-free Scotland

Suddenly we were back in a land which we had all but forgotten: pre-Thatcher land, where governments did what governments were meant to do: raising taxes and spending them on the people; nostalgia reigned. True, there were some dissenters to be coralled, and one or two speeches from the platform showed more than a hint of discomfort at this sudden lurch backwards. That old Nationalist troublemaker, Jim Sillars, described it as a classic miscalculation. But no one doubted that the move had defined the Scottish elections and the position of the two leading parties in a way that nothing before had done. There was much talk of

"clear tartan water". Labour's response was immediate. It calculated the cost to the average taxpayer as £5 a week. Mr Brown

> summoned business leaders to say that jobs would be and firms would have to move south. He predicted chaos as separate systems were drawn up north and south of the border. In do-ing so, of course, he too was taking a calculated risk.

came north and

wheeled out in Labour's defence bore a surprising resemblance to those the Tories summoned to warn voters about Labour's devolution plans. It handed the SNP an extra weapon: here, it was able to say, was a campaign run from London, using Tory allies to fight a Tory-style

n the end. however, I believe the SNP has got it wrong. Its approach assumes that the Scots are an unreconstructed people who will respond, Pavlovian style, to the lure of higher public spending; that they have learnt nothing from the recent history of Western economies: that they will vote instinctively for a tax-raising party without inquiring further into how efficiently that party intends to govern. The SNP may even have taken its own followers for granted. Its homeland territory of northeast Scotland was once held by the Tories. A disproportionately high number of voters in the area said "No" in the referendum on whether a Scottish parliament should have tax-raising powers.

The SNP, in short, may have committed one of those great strategic blunders that lose battles and cost lives: in storming forward it may have forgotten its lines of supply.

comment@the-times.co.uk



It could get even worse

he Europhiles need not despair and Eurosceptics should certainly not celebrate. Perverse as it may seem, this week may mark a great leap forward for the "European

Project".
The fiasco in Brussels suggests that the historic choice for Europe cannot be put off much longer. In choosing the new European Commission President - and doing so under the intense public scrutiny created by the Brussels crisis - the Governments of Europe will have to confront the momentous questions which they have been dodging, with diminishing success, for the past 40 years. Will the European Union reform itself and whittle down its functions to become a streamlined community of co-operative, but self-governing, countries? Or will the EU finally make a wholehearted and explicit commitment to the

creation of a federated, democratic United States of Europe? These questions must now be faced because the EU cannot go on as before. I say this not for reasons of morality but of practical politics. In the past, the horse-trading over a new President and Commission in

Brussels has been a matter of no

great interest or importance to

anyone but the political classes in

the chancelleries of Europe.

This time, however, the President's appointment will be laden with constitutional and symbolic importance. It will no longer do to appoint an obscure non-entity, a compromise candidate with no known opinions and no vision of Europe's future. He (or she) will have to present a programme, or at least a vision, for Europe that is understandable and impressive to the national electorates who will, for once, be watching the decisions made by their Governments in Brussels. The President's selection will be closer than ever before to a proper political campaign — and this will be followed immediately by the elections to the European Parliament in June. The upshot will be a period of intense political activity at the European level, in which the future direction of Europe will be exposed to unprecedented public attention and at least the appearance of democratic debate.

As this debate is joined, Europe will realise that it has reached a cross-roads. In one direction - the one clearly favoured not only by William Hague and the Conservatives, but by almost all strands of

The latest Euro-crisis may benefit

those who got us into this mess

political opinion in Britain, including even the Liberal Democrats -Europe would have to step backwards. It would shift towards decentralisation and voluntary cooperation between independent governments. If this road were chosen, the new President would commit himself to hand back to national governments those responsibilities

that are not directly connected with the maintenance of open markets and free trade. This process would start with such relatively trivi-

ism and road-building, but would move gradually towards the renationalisation of income support for farmers and might call into question the greatest centralising project of all - economic and monetary union. For this very reason, the whittling down of functions demanded by Mr Hague and notionally supported even by Tony Blair,

al matters as tour-

seems most unlikely to happen. This narrowing of focus might well be answer, a proper examination of the supported by many European votissues and a full-scale constitutional ers, but despite the appearance of greater democracy in the forthcoming elections for the European President and Parliament, it will not be presented as a serious option by

candidates, except perhaps by the Tories in Britain. And what if Europe takes the other road, rejecting the demands for a narrower focus, as is much more likely. There will then be another momentous choice. Again, Europe is unlikely just to go on as before. It will move towards greater centralisation - and it will probably do so much more rapidly than most politicians expected even a few months ago. By imposing more accountability and openness on the new President and his Commission.

the Governments of Europe will be

investing them with a new legiti-

macy. By that very fact, the Europe-

an Commission and the other

centralising institutions will be

offered an irresistible invitation to extend their powers. But as the powers of the central institutions continue to grow, the demands for still greater democratic accountability, inspired by this week's debacle in Brussels, will intensify. The Strasbourg Parliament will aspire to fill this gap. And the more legitimacy the Commission and the European Parliament respectively acquire, the greater will be their appetite for still The only way to stop this vicious circle is to confront

head-on the quesrope" is for and where it is going. Is tive a fully fledged federal state or a free-trade zone? Or could it be, in my tively, an associa-tion of independent countries, bound by a common political and legal framework, but co-operating in different fields to varying degrees and through different institu-

tions? Whatever the reform is now required. Significantly, the need for a new constitutional settlement for Eu-

rope, analogous to the Constitutional Convention that created the USA in 1789, is the one issue that unites almost all honest thinkers on Europe, ranging from Paddy Ashdown to Bill Cash. Unfortunately, it also unites almost all European Governments in the opposing camp. Governments on both sides of the federalist divide have tried to avoid these questions for contradictory motives. Instead of risking a direct confrontation with national cultures and historical traditions. European federalists proceeded from the start with circumspection. even stealth. The ill-fated Dutch attempt in 1991 to insert a reference to Europe's "federal destiny" into the first draft of the Treaty of Maastricht was the exception that proved the rule about the federalists' general circumspection. In-stead of following the American example and building their United States from the constitutional foundations upwards, the founding fathers of Europe decided on the opposite approach - the "functionalist" theory of European integration discussed in this column last month. Europe would develop through the almost imperceptible accretion of non-controversial economic and administrative functions to the centre in Brussels. In the end, therefore, Europe would reach the same federal destination as the United States. But under the functionalist programme, no explicit approval from the perverse and unpredicta-ble peoples of Europe would be required for this grand design.

urosceptic politicians, at least those of a moderate, internationalist persuasion, have been equally reluctant to face the federalist issue head-on. Especially when in government, leaders such as John Major and even François Mitterrand and Jacques Chirac, have worried about presenting the people of Europe with a stark choice between a glorified free-trade zone and a fully federated European state. Their main worry has been that either their own people or those of other European nations would give the "wrong" answer. If Germany, in particular, were offered the choice of a fully federal Europe, it might say "yes". In that case Britain, and even France, would face a choice that few Eurosceptics have dared to contemplate: to give up their national independence or to pull out of the mainstream of

European integration. The obvious answer for countries such as Britain and Sweden is to allow Germany and other nations that want to federate (or to operate a single currency) to do so, while remaining in an outer tier of European economic integration. But this is a choice that British Governments have gone to enormous lengths to avoid. It was in trying to dodge this option that both John Major and Margaret Thatcher destroyed their political careers. The question now is whether Tony Blair with his quixotic claim that he can reform Europe without re-examining its constitution or its ultimate political destination - will eventually succumb to the same fate.

anatole.kaletsky@the-times.co.uk



Bragg boost

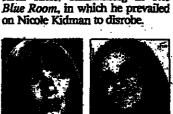
LORD BRAGG is poised to come out as the most celebrated Blairite to be wood by the New Europe movement. Melvyn is said to be a "deep sympathiser" with Lord Owen's edectic pro-Europe, antisingle currency campaign. He has long told friends of his scepticism but had been reluctant to offend his

Europhile masters in the Lords. that he will become "an uniront campaigner" — "our door is well and truly open for him". Ah, it takes me back to sweet sunny days when faintly confused celebs march-

ed behind the good doctor to uncharted triumphs with the SDP. THE Duchess of Mariborough has been practising DIY medicine. She recently mended a dislocated shoulder by swinging from a doorway in Blenheim Palace.

SAM MENDES has a new leading lady. After splitting with Jane Horrocks (left), the artistic director of the Donmar Warehouse

is dating Calista Flockhart (right), the delightfully angst-ridden, airmunching damsel in Ally McBeal. The duo met when Mendes took Cabaret to Broadway. His star has risen since, culminating in The





DAVID BECKHAM'S newborn son, Brooklyn, is to make an early debut. The Manchester United hallsmith has asked adidas to stitch his son's name into his boots, so he is reminded of his "greatest performance".

■ CARE in the Community: MPs are being sent on work experience. Eager pups such as Matthew Taylor and Austin Mitchell will spend ten days working for a charity. Most imaginative placement: Helen Brinton, harshly liked to an android, is to join MIND, the mental health charity. "I am particularly interested in personality disorders," she tells me.

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NIL points for Brussels linguists. The Euro-babblers and sloppy English papers quoted Jacques Santer as insisting he was "whiter than white". He actually said: "I was completely cleared on this point" (à claim about his wife, not about his conduct).



Tom Bantok's Soho club. With finance from Hamish McAlpine, Orlando Campbell as maitre d'and parties from Dai Llewellyn, it seemed convivial. But, two months on, doors remain shut. "I didn't realise Torn had no

licence or planning permission." says Dai. "I'm surprised it has come to this, as he had the right people behind him." The agreeable Campbell, meanwhile, is looking for work. Bantok insists the doors are sealed for "safety checks".

THE history of civilisation is the latest literary task entertaining Hywel Williams, having polished off the Tories with Guilty Men. The Egyptians are trying. "I am very suspicious of people who like cats," he reasons. He promises to knock the book off soon: "I've done the Ancient Greeks, so I am on the home straight."

YOUNG Etonians are being woord by Alex Salmond to lead Scotland. He thinks aristocratic Scots, who have let his country down by scurrying south, should come home. The Anglo-Scottish aristocracy has often done Scotland down," the SNP leaders tells Splinter, an Eton literary magazine. "I would hope with independence they would turn their energies to making Scotland a success."

JASPER GERARD

'Serbia should stand and fall before Nato, rather than slink into a dog kennel for voluntary vivisection' West from the Beast of the base in southeastern Europe

ritain and America are poised to wage war on a European nation just because that nation has the temerity to believe in itself. Serbia is threatened with a massive bombing offensive simply because it acts as any proud nation would - it refuses to have foreign

troops colonising its soil. By intervening in Kosovo, the West is aiding and abetting secession by an ethnic minority within Serbia. That secession, once effected, will render many European borders tentative. In the context of any other European nation the story would sound surreal. The Serbs, however, have been demonised to the point where they must not presume to be treated like others. The West feels no inhibition in bullying a nation which is prepared to protect its integrity. But just because the West feels no inhibition, why should it escape having to give a rational justification?
"We must end the suffering! we are told. But what about

Rwanda, Burundi, Algeria and so many other unhappy lands? The Western alliance regularly ignores horrific brutalities, and it has condoned aggression in eastern Turkey and East Timor. Taking action in Kosovo is not a stand in defence of universal principles. The West picks and chooses between the principle of self-determination and the principle of non-intervention as it suits. in Washington, Abdullah Ocalan is a terrorist, but the Kosovo Liberation Army are freedomfighters. In each case, American interests decree who enjoys support, and who endures torture.

What is the West's specific interest in Kosovo? "Regional stability," we are told: if we don't contain this conflict now, it will engulf Macedonia, Greece, Turkey, and the entire Balkans.

Srdja Trifkovic

But the West's proposed actions do not constitute a tourniquet which will stanch the flow of blood - instead, they are applying leeches to the haemorrhage. To force Serbia into signing a plan that will effectively elevate Kosovo to the status of a constituent republic, with Nato troops brought in to seal the deal. will produce countless new hotbeds of instability. Insurrection will have been seen to be rewarded.

Far from stabilising things, this scenario will unleash a chain-reaction throughout the former Communist half of Europe. Its first victim will be the former Yugoslav republic of Macedonia, where the restive Albanian minority makes up a third of the population (as op-posed to a fifth in Serbia). Oddly,

the West does not object to the refusal of the Macedonian Government to grant autonomy to its Albanians. But once KLA veterans acting as policemen start to patrol Kosovo, the rising expectations of Macedonia's Albanians will be impossible to contain.

f the principle of full autonomy for minorities, leading to secession, is imposed on Serbia, will it not be demanded by the Hungarians in Romania who are more numerous than Kosovo's Albanians? What will stop the Russians in other republies from following suit?

In the next week or so President Milosevic may give in to pressure: he manipulates these crises to preserve his power. With each new surrender he is temporarily converted by the

Balkans into the Necessary Partner. Yet again, at home, he will paint defeat as victory, because he will get a figleaf in the form of a few Russian battalions or a few European millions. This outcome would be awful for Serbia. The nation should lose its tyrant. not its borders. It should stand and fall before Nato, rather than slink into a dog kennel for voluntary vivisection.

Another Milosevic surrender would also be bad because we need a good, loud argument within the Western alliance about American policy in the Baikans. It is not coherent diplomacy to allow Mr Milosevic to handle every crisis as a tool for domestic survival. And we need to appreciate that American support for intervention in Kosovo is influenced by selfish interests. An autonomous American military and political power-

would be an asset which would not depend on the future ups and downs of Washington's relations with Germany's Red-Green coali-tion and France's Eurocentrists. "Most friendships, Sir" — as Dr Johnson reminded Boswell —

"are mere leagues in vice, or conspiracies in folly." In politics they are invariably both. They also tend to end stickily for one or both parties. As Tony Blair prepares to follow Bill Clinton on yet another joyride, he would do well to remember the example of poor Che left out to dry by Fidel Castro. If he does not think again the real, literal victims will be thousands of young Serbs, Albanians, and Nato servicemen.

The author is Foreign Editor of Chronicies, a magazine of American culture.

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WANTED, OFFICE CLEANER

What should be written on the EU's 'clean slate'

has given way to what may appear to be a more contrite, and politically realistic, admission that the party really is over. The Commission now says that it has "neither the desire nor intention to remain in office longer than necessary" and will, while it stays, launch no new policy initiatives.

But this apparently humble bow to the inevitable requires translation. The denizens of this self-regarding world assume that the less this doomed Commission does, the keener governments will be to get a new one up and running - and the more likely they are to ignore the Maastricht treaty's legal ban on reappointing commissioners who have resigned, and to rehire nearly all of this discredited equipe.

If Tony Blair joins other governments in doing this, even as an interim measure. then he should have the grace to concede that in the backscratching world of EU politicking, there is no such thing as a clean slate. He will have colluded in making accountability a farce.

But one thing at least is clear: Mr Santer himself will be run out of town. Names are circulating, notably including the Nato Secretary-General, Javier Solana, and Romano Prodi, the wry economist who, against all expectations, pushed through just enough fiscal and budgetary reform to squeeze Italy into the single currency.

The odds are on Signor Prodi, not for the best reasons, but the worst. His credentials - an honest mien, more steel than his homely style suggests, and seriousness about cleaning up Italian politics - are less germane than the fact that it would suit the current Prime Minister, Massimo d'Alema, to see the back of him. In the European Parliament elections, Signor Prodi's new political movement, backed by the "clean hands" magistrate Antonio di Pietro, is expected to pick up enough of the vote to split the Italian left.

Small wonder then that Signor d'Alema

Jacques Santer's morning-after defiance is pushing his candidature hard, as a "now or never" opportunity. But although Signor Prodi's reforming zeal is undoubtedly good for Italy, he might be less ideal in Brussels than Mr Blair imagines. He is a convinced federalist. In the great question before the EU, whether Brussels will drive integration forward or allow more room for national identity, he would have a much less open mind than, for example, Giuliano Amato, another able Italian ex-Prime

Minister esteemed for his personal probity. It would be best, although it will not happen, if governments were to require all candidate to set out their strategies for reform. For the key question is not how to break with the shoddy Santer years, but how to dismantle the structures and outlook shaped by the formidable Jacques Delors. It was under M Delors, who boasted in the 1980s that within a decade, 80 per cent of all key policy decisions would be taken in Brussels, that the European Commission closed its tentacles over domains that it should never have usurped. Even without the scandals he let fester, Mr Santer was a disaster because he did not keep his promise to cut the Brussels coat to a more modest measure of cloth.

If the Commission is to win the respect of the public, it has not only to shed its arrogance and clean house. It must put a stop to the otiose intrusiveness that people rightly resent. That calls for a warrior-President, courageous and skilled enough to hobble if not slay the EU's most sacred cow

the doctrine of acquis communautaire which dictates that once Brussels has inserted its finger in a pot, it never removes it. The Commission needs to become more like the Europe that people live in, with all its national idiosyncracies, traditions and pride, than the homogenised "Europe" of the énarques. "Je suis un top-downer." M Delors once revealingly said, in four words that sum up what is wrong. It will be hard, enormously hard, to put right.

WELCOME BAC

The fluctuating currency market in exams

The A level, the Gold Standard of secondary education, has survived to late middle age, despite signs that it has succumbed to creeping "grade inflation". Later this week the Government will reveal plans to shore up its value. But some schools are already turning their back on A levels, investing instead in the International Baccalaureate. Pluralism and choice, in exams as elsewhere, are healthy. Yet will these changes devalue the A level as a qualification?

The foundations of the A level have been mined from all sides. Left-wing critics claim that it is elitist. From the right comes the grave accusation that the relentless rise in the number of students with good A levels is not a sign that the nation has become brighter, but rather that the exams are easier. Employers complain that it furnishes too narrow an educational base.

The import of the International Baccalaureate may be evidence of how bad the situation has become. Yet its arrival is good news. The Bac addresses many of the A level's faults. It is broad: students select six subjects, spanning the arts and sciences. It offers depth: at least three of the six subjects are taken at a level equivalent to A levels. The marking system, which awards points, distinguishes students' ability more clearly than grades. It has been tried and tested in 100 countries; and schools such as Sevenoaks like its rigour.

Ministers prefer tinkering with the A level to its wholesale ejection. They are right. The A level still has strengths although it needs reform. Plans circulating in Whitehall would allow students to study up to five subjects in the first sixth-form year and take Advanced Supplementary exams in each of the subjects, some split into modules. At the end of the year, students would be able to drop one or two of the subjects, and concentrate on the remainder for the final A-level exam.

This solution aims to please everyone, promising greater breadth but defending the existing depth of study. Examining pupils at the end of their first sixth-form year will help universities decide which applicants should be offered places. Yet there are potential downsides. The stealthy advance of modules can fragment a subject's integrity. Being appraised on a bite-sized chunk of knowledge is less challenging than sitting an end-of-year exam. Although an AS level is taken in half the time of an A level, the first year of a course is less academically demanding than the second. The weighting of results for the two exams should reflect this.

Some teaching unions may oppose these plans for different reasons, alleging insufficient teachers, resources and hours in the day to teach five, not three subjects. They should see the merit in offering children greater breadth of study, even if that does mean a longer school day. Sixth-form students are at their desks for 18 hours a week, 12 hours fewer than their German or French counterparts. A more relevant concern is how these reforms will cater for brighter pupils. Creating an A-starred grade would simply turn the current A grade into a B. A better solution would be to introduce a more challenging exam which, unlike the S level, tests students' knowledge and understanding of the

A-level syllabus to a greater depth. Broadening the range without diluting standards is a difficult trick. A well devised AS level could correct many deficiencies of the current system. But if universities and employers see AS levels as undermining A levels, the Gold Standard will suffer the fate of any over-valued currency.

BETTER LATE THAN NEVER

Citizenship for Britain's last colonial subjects

It has been a long time dying, but Robin Cook's announcement that Britain's remaining colonial subjects will be granted full citizenship should at last lay the Empire to rest. Fifty-two years after India won independence, and two years after Hong Kong was handed over to China, the peoples of the 13 territories that chose to continue flying the Union Jack are finally to be treated as equals. Mr Cook is extending the right to live and work in Britain to 150,000 mostly non-white people living on islands which were once stagingposts on colonial shipping routes. Until now, these rights were enjoyed only by the Falkland Islands and Gibraltar, whose inhabitants are mostly white.

Other British islanders resented being fobbed off, in 1981, with a lesser post-imperial status that forced them to get visas to visit London and work permits to look for jobs here. The removal of citizenship was an unprincipled measure, taken largely to stop Hong Kong's 3.5 million mainly Chinese holders of British National Overseas Passports coming to Britain. The bitterness it caused came into the open after the volcanic eruption in Montserrat in 1997, when islanders accused Britain of giving them too little help to stay but, until policy was hurriedly changed, denying them the right to live in this country.

Reform has been delayed by old-style thinking on both sides. Some Caribbean territories have been slow to accept the responsibilities that go with full citizenship. In particular, they have dragged their heels over enacting tough new legislation. in line with Britain's, against money laundering - an issue Britain will review with them at the end of 1999.

The Home Office, for its part, was reluctant to make an exception to its immigration policies. Its point was not that granting citizenship to islanders would flood Britain with immigrants. Two thirds of the new citizens live on prosperous Caribbean islands and have little reason to move. What the Home Office demanded was reciprocity, the right for mainland British nationals to settle in the islands. Fearing their tiny economies would be swamped, the territories refused. Mr Cook persuaded the Home Office to back down.

Full citizenship will put the finishing touch to his broader plan to update London's relationship with colonies acquired as far back as the 1600s. The islands already have more access to Whitehall, and a minister and department in London to look after their interests. Mr Cook is to be commended for seeking a "modernised partnership": and for a White Paper that elegantly rights a colonial wrong.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London El 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

scuba diving among various types of sharks, and hand-feeding sharks for

Scuba divers are generally much safer from shark attack than surface

swimmers. Sharks usually circle their

potential prey, and one can tell fairly

easily whether a nearby shark is con-

templating an attack. They also have a distinct body language that betrays their mood, usually giving enough warning to allow one to leave the area

Some subspecies, such as the tiger shark, can be territorial, and will

make several warning displays before

attacking. Swimming on the surface, of course, one is usually ignorant of

such underwater warnings, while the erratic splashing noises signify prey

If a punch to the nose is needed, it is

important to use the correct technique

- the arm bent at right angles and raised horizontally, the back of the fist

pointing away. A swift backlist punch

minimises the chance of your list

following through off the nose into the

Sir, As a child, I hardly dared look at

a particular sequence of photographs in The Silent World by Jacques

The sequence shows a grey shark

turn and approach the camera. In the

final picture, the shark is still coming

and its head almost fills the frame.

The caption reads: "The shark is 2ft

away. Then I bang his nose with the

East Dundry, Bristol BS41 8NH.

Sir, I have been reading Underwater

Adventure by Willard Price, in which

Hal and Roger Hunt punched a blue

and white make shark on the nose to

It swam away but came back again

very angry, so it is a good thing Mr Palmer didn't have to try this himself.

Clacton-on-Sea, Essex CO15 3PN.

38e Montpellier Spa Road,

Cheltenham, Gloucestershire GL50 IUL.

From Mr John Chevne

to many sharks.

open jaws.

March 15.

Cousteau.

Yours faithfully,

Walnut Farm.

March 12.

JOHN CHEYNE,

From Alan Brown

stop it attacking them.

ALAN BROWN (aged 9),

Yours faithfully,

March 10.

Kind regards, PIOTR NEY,

the benefit of scuba-diving tourists.

of motoring taxes

From Mr Martin Bennett

Sir, Although British fuel and vehicle excise taxes may be generally higher than on the Continent (letters, March 15), this does not translate into correspondingly higher total motoring costs, as anyone who has travelled on France's toll-charging autoroutes will

The principle behind the fuel duty escalator is to build into motoring costs a greater proportion of the ex-ternal costs which are caused by motoring but incurred by society and the environment generally. The effect is intended to be to reduce the volume of petrol and diesel-fuelled road traffic to only what can genuinely be justified by the economic benefits which it creates, without hidden subsidy.

The problem is that our Goveroment is attempting to achieve this only through the blunt proxy of vehicle and fuel taxes. As the road industry is now demonstrating, these

can be easily avoided. it has been estimated that if all external societal costs of motoring were factored into the fuel price alone, this would at least double its present level. The need is to design an alternative method of taxation which is less easily avoided. Taxation through road-use pricing, while still less than ideal, would be preferable to duties on fuel, and avoid loss of UK business

Yours faithfully, MARTIN BENNETT, **Environmental Management** Accounting Group, University of Wolverhampton. Compton Road West, Wolverhampton WV3 9DX. martindbennett@compuserve.com March 15.

From Mr Roger Sainsbury, FEng, President of The Institution of Civil Engineers

Sir, The Chancellor is understandably the subject of complaint by the road transport industry for having encouraged competition from other countries by his huge increase in the licence charges for lorries. But to focus on the charge alone is misguided.

This institution has for some years

advocated the progressive increase of fuel duty for both cars and lorries. Albeit a blunt instrument, this will encourage the development of more efficient engines, evaluation of a switch to rail, and consideration of whether a journey is really necessary.

To increase the standing charge on ginal cost in use and is thus a poor incentive. On the contrary, the higher the standing charge the greater the propensity to drive the vehicle to gain value from that charge. It is the use of vehicles, not their existence, which threatens the environment. On these grounds, there has long been a good case for putting the whole amount of any environmental levy on to fuel prices and doing away with the licence fee.

The environmental benefit from dearer fuel will be lessened by the ability to buy more cheaply on the other side of the Channel. The Chancellor and Deputy Prime Minister should both press our European partners to demonstrate their green credentials in this matter.

Yours faithfully, ROGER SAINSBURY,

The Institution of Civil Engineers, One Great George Street, SWIP 3AA.

From the Chairman of the Forest Industry Council and others

Sir. We endorse the views of your correspondents today. Road fuel is an inescapable and essential prime cost of timber production and, despite our pleas, the Chancellor seems bent on

destroying our industry. In rural industry, road transport is an absolute necessity. In some Euro-pean countries the cost of fuel is half that in the UK. A recent external industry review stated that the cost base of UK forestry had to be cut to be competitive. How can we compete in the face of this ever-increasing tax

Additionally, the increase in vehicle excise duty on five-axle vehicles is so severe that many small rural hauliers will be unable to continue business.

Yours faithfully, ANDREW CHRISTIE-MILLER, Chairman. Forest Industry Council, ROGER HAY.

Forestry Contracting Association. RICHARD SOCHACKI,

Association of Professional Foresters, LEN YULL Chairman, Timber Growers Association, c/o Association of Professional Foresters 7-9 West Street, Belford, Northumberland NE70 7QA

From Canon Roy Arnold

March 15.

Sir, Is the Europe which is attracting road hauliers and other business leaders to "re-flag" because of cheaper taxation over there the same Europe which they do not wish us to join because of EU social legislation and higher taxes?

Yours etc. ROY ARNOLD. 49 Crossfield Road. Bollington. Macclesfield, Cheshire SKIO 5EA. March 15.

'Blunt instrument' Hit or miss ways to repel sharks

From Rear-Admiral Sir Richard Trowbridge

Sir, I write with reference to Jack Palmer's letter (March 10; see also letters. March 13) concerning the action to be taken against attacking sharks.

We grandfathers must hold to-gether against the incredulity of the young and I hasten to support his claim concerning the differing defensive methods to be taken against various types of sharks. I well recall that such a notice was displayed in HM ships in the Far East in the early 1950s and that it caused much amusement and disbelief.

However, I must confess that after more than 40 years in the Royal Navy, I never met nor did I ever hear of anyone actually punching a shark on the nose, but perhaps this is because that was the wrong action to take against that particular fish and the person concerned never lived to tell the tale.

Yours truly. RICHARD TROWBRIDGE. Old Idsworth Garden, Fînchdean, Waterlooville, Hampshire PO8 0BA. March 16.

From Mr Michael Jefferson

Sir. In 1951, while serving in the Royal Navy in the Fleet Air Arm, I was sent to the United States to train with the US Navy, where I was provided with a package prominently labelled 'shark repellent", attached to my Mae

I have a very strong suspicion that this contrivance was — like the punch-a-shark advice — a psychological anodyne to comfort those who had the misfortune to find themselves in shark-infested waters. My suspicions were confirmed when a member of my training squadron ditched in the Gulf of Mexico, and thought it prudent to scatter his packaged repellent about his dinghy, only to be immediately joined by a variety of

Fortunately, his sound good sense, diffidence and desire to survive pre-vented him from punching any of

Yours faithfully. MICHAEL JEFFERSON. 21 Hollow Lane, Hayling Island. Hampshire POII 9AA.

From Mr Piotr Ney

Sir, While I cannot claim to be an borate Jack Palmer's letter about punching sharks on the nose. I have often

Full-time motherhood

From Ms Fiona Clarke

Sir, Your article, "Want a baby? Read this first" (March 12), had me shouting at the newspaper (something I usually reserve for the radio).

If one lives in a flat in town and

buys an Old English sheepdog, it is pretty clear that one is ignorant of the size and nature of the responsibility. Does that mean owning a dog is universally problematical? When I had my children, I knew all

about the noise, the dirty nappies, the sieepless nights, the avalanche of accessories. I was a career woman with a fulfilling life and I fully intended to return to work as soon as possible What I was unprepared for was how much I loved being a mother and enjoyed the company of babies.

Eight years later. I am still a fulltime mother, with three children. My husband, who married me on the basis that we weren't going to have children, jokes about wanting his money back.

Being a full-time mother is not valued by society - at parties, owning up to it is the quickest way to lose people. If you have chosen to devote your time to raising the next generation they assume you are too stupid or indolent to do anything else.

I think this comes as a shock, in particular to women young enough not to have established themselves in a career. I am still, after eight years, driven to talking about what I used to do as a way of getting people to take me seriously.

Despite having done a number of different jobs, motherhood is, for me. the most challenging, enjoyable, and undervalued occupation in the world. Don't knock it.

Yours faithfully. FIONA CLARKE, Il Fairfield Road, Uxbridge, Middlesex UB8 IAX.

From the Director General of the British Red Cross

Sir, Libby Purves is right to raise the

issue of the impact on our society from

a decline in volunteers (article, "St

John seeks a face-lift". Weekend,

March 13). It is hard to imagine what would

happen if agencies like the British Red

Cross stopped providing services such

as taking people home from hospital, lending medical equipment or sup-porting victims of fire, floods and

This is "the dirty work", as Libby

Purves calls it, which currently occupies the attentions of 86,000 British

Red Cross volunteers who offer care

It is at times of crisis when the vol-unteers of the British Red Cross and

St John Ambulance are most needed.

The two organisations worked very

closely together, for instance, provid-

ing support to the victims of the

Volunteers are often the unsung heroes of society. Maybe we should all

take time out to say thank you next

time we see volunteers in action, and

9 Grosvenor Crescent, SWIX 7EJ.

Letters to the Editor for

publication should carry

a daytime telephone number.

They may be sent to a fax number

— 0171-782 5046 — or by

e-mail to: letters@the-times.co.uk

consider joining their ranks.

other disasters.

to people in crisis.

Omagh bombing.

Yours faithfully, SAM YOUNGER,

Director General,

British Red Cross.

March 15.

Spontaneous rhetoric Volunteer help

From Mr Johan Schloemann

Sir, Simon Jenkins (article, March 12) rightly insists that the art of speechmaking is more than reading out a text, and that nowadays few are capable of speaking extemporaneously.

The same claim was made in the 4th century BC by the rhetorician and sophist Alcidamas, who deplored the (newly introduced) written preparation of speeches and pointed out that an off-the-cuff speech can much better react to the audience and the needs of the moment.

This tension between preparation and improvisation (on the early history of which I am preparing a dissertation) has been present in the art of rhetoric ever since.

Yours sincerely. JOHAN SCHLOEMANN, Potsdamer Strasse 168, 10783 Berlin. johan_schloemann@

student.hu-berlin.de March 13.

Once and for all

From District Judge Helen Wood

Sir. I note from your report of the visit of the Prince of Wales to Sea Lion Island (March 16) that the two human inhabitants, a man and his wife, emigrated there from North Yorkshire 25 years ago. Even so, can there ever be such a thing as a "former Yorkshireman", as the caption to your photograph (earlier editions) put it?

Yours faithfully. HELEN WOOD, Pontefract County Court, Pontefract WFS IRI,

Limits imposed on medical training performed this trick, in the course of

From Lord McColl

Sir. The Privy Council is currently considering the representation from the Education Committee of the General Medical Council to withdraw recognition of the United Examining Board. The GMC has concluded that the standard required of medical students taking the board's examination is "not sufficient". But the committee has ignored requests from the board to specify the deficiencies and

how they could be corrected. In all the arguments I have seen about this matter, it has not been brought to the public's attention that there are advantages in having the board, as well as the universities, that can dispense medical qualifications. Some universities are at times inflexible, in which case the board can

provide the answer Perhaps this could best be illustrated by the case some 12 years ago of a medical student at Guy's who broke his neck during a game of rugger and was paralysed in both legs and partly in his arms. His university refused to allow him to qualify with a degree but the board did allow him to take the examination, which he passed. He has been a triumph in the disability

world, providing valuable leadership. Another important reason for the continued recognition of the board is that it provides the only route for refugee doctors coming to the United Kingdom to qualify and obtain full registration; otherwise they would have to go through the entire medical

school training.

The United Examining Board is run by highly reputable doctors and provides an important service to this country. I think that the General Medical Council Education Committee's representation is wrong, and I very much hope that the Privy Council will turn it down.

Yours faithfully, IAN McCOLL (Professor of Surgery, Guy's, 1971-98). House of Lords. March 17.

Library closure

From Professor Lauro Martines

Sir, The Reading Rooms of the British Library are now in their second week of closure, owing to industrial action, and there is no solution in sight (letter, March 16). Library management seem unable to find the £50,000 to content the 120 library assistants (5 per cent of staff) who actually fetch books for reader:

Could the trouble be that almost all the funds available for services and salaries now go to the red-jacketed warders, into "security" equipment and to other new services for nonreaders, as well as to make good the heavy costs already disbursed to out-side "consultants"? The interests of readers seem to be coming second to the need to serve and keep an eye on the non-readers who pour into the new building every day.

In their current handout management proudly boast that it "is the world's leading national research library". If so, when are they going to understand that their sole reason for existence as managers is, ultimately, in the activities of reading and research?

Yours faithfully LAURO MARTINES. 8 Gloucester Crescent, NWI 7DS.

Worldly wisdom

From Mr David J. Cowan

Sir. Congratulations on your choice of text for the day after the Budget (March 10): "We didn't bring anything into this world and we won't take anything with us when we leave (1 Timothy, vi. 7). This serves to put all material matters in their proper place and in the context of eternity.

Yours faithfully, DAVID J. COWAN, Cowan & Wood (solicitors), 114 South Street Dorking, Surrey RH4 2EZ March 15.

Prayer and shopping

From Mr Edward C. Wilson

Sir. If my wife's comments on my shopping are anything to go by, the prayer (letter, March 15) should also include: "You have left unbought those things which you ought to have bought."

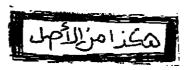
Yours faithfully, EDWARD C. WILSON, 19 Castle Meadow. Sible Hedingham, Essex CO9 3PZ. March 15.

Wedding gifts

From Monsignor Graham P. M. Adams

Sir. When I am invited as a guest to a wedding, I send every couple the same gift (feature, "Every wedding list tells a story", March 16). They receive bathroom scales with the message. "May your way in life be happy and

Yours sincerely, GRAHAM P. M. ADAMS, The Presbytery, Aston-le-Walls, Daventry NNII 6UF. March 16.





COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE March 17: The Lord Somericyton was received by The Queen when Her Majesty invested him with the Insignia of a Knight Grand Cross of the Royal Victorian Order.

Major General the Lord Michael Fitzalan Howard was received by The Queen and delivered up the Stick of Office upon his relinquishing his appointment as Gold Stick.

The Right Hon Tony Blair, MP (Prime Minister and First Lord of the Treasury) had an Audience of

The Queen this evening.
The Queen attended a Reception for the College of Chaplains at St James's Palace this evening. **BUCKINGHAM PALACE**

March 17: The Duke of Edinburgh.
President Emeritus, World Wide
Fund for Nature - WWF International, this morning attended the Yaoundé, Cameroon,

His Royal Highness this evening hosted a Dinner for Heads of State attending the Summit at the Presidential Guest House. Yaounde, Cameroon. ST JAMES'S PALACE

March 17: The Prince of Wales. Duke of Cornwall, this morning esided at a meeting of The Prince's Council. **BUCKINGHAM PALACE**

March 15: The Duke of York visited flood-damaged areas in North and East Yorkshire today. March 17: The Duke of York, Patron, presented the Awards at the Annual Award Ceremony of the Royal Aero Club, at the Royal Automobile Club. London SWI. BUCKINGHAM PALACE

March 17: The Prince Edward this morning presented Queen Eliza-beth The Queen Mother's gift of Shamrock to the 1st Battalion Irish Guards in Oxford Barracks, Munster, Germany.

Today's royal

engagements

Birthdays today

The Prince of Wales, president, The Prince's Trust, will attend the film premiere of Tea with Musso-lini at the Empire, Leicester The Duke of York will attend a seminar given at Buckingham Palace for the National Maritime Collection at 2.00.

The Duke of Kent, as vice chairman. British Overseas Trade Board, will visit Cammell Laird Shipyard, Campbeltown Road, Birkenhead, at 11.10; will open the Laird Foundation, at noon; and will visit Birkenhead Priory, Priory Street, at 12.55. Later, he will visit R.S. Clare & Co, Stanhope Street, Liverpool, at 2.10: and officially open the Bonner Building of Contract Chemicals, Penrhyn Road, Knowsley Business Park. Prescot. at 3.30.

Memorial meeting Mr Louis Schaffer

Schaffer, barrister, of 10 King's Bench Walk, Temple, was held yesterday in the Parliament Chamer, Inner Temple. Mr Daniel Schaffer. son, Mr Ronald Thwaites, QC, Head of Chambers. Judge Kenneth Zucker, QC, Mr Arnold Rosen and Mr Malcolm Weisman were the speakers. Members of the family, members of chambers and many other friends and former colleagues were

Lieutenant Colonel Sean O'Dwver was in attendance. **BUCKINGHAM PALACE**

March 17: The Princess Royal today carried out the following engagements in Wellington, New Zealand:

Her Royal Highness, President, this morning visited Missions to Seamen at Centreport House, Hinemoa Street.

The Princess Royal later visited the Chartered Institute of Trans-port of New Zealand, TranzRail Corporate Office, Wellington Rail-

Her Royal Highness attended a Her Royal Highness attended a luncheon given by The Right Honourable Jenny Shipkey. Prime Minister of New Zealand, at Parliament Buildings.

The Princess Royal, Patron, New Zealand Riding for the Disabled Association Incorporated this offerces which the Riversen Riversen

ed. this afternoon visited Hutt Valkey Riding for the Disabled, County Lane. Silverstream. Her Royal Highness later visit

ed the Malaghan Institute of Medical Research at the Wellington Hospital.
The Princess Royal this evening

attended a dinner hosted by His Excellency Sir Michael Hardie Boys, Governor General of New Zealand, at Government House. KENSINGTON PALACE March 17: The Duchess of Glouces-

rer. Patron. St Peter's Trust - for Kidney. Bladder and Prostate Research, this morning received Mr Andrew Crawshaw (Chairman) and Miss Vanessa Wood

The Duchess of Gloucester, President, Research into Ageing, this afternoon visited the offices. Bard House, 15-17 St Cross Street, London ECI.

The Duke of Gloucester this

evening attended a Reception and an Exhibition of the renovation of the Tabernacle, Powis Square,

Mr Ron Atkinson, football manager. 60; Mr Patrick Barlow, actor, writer and director, 52; Lieutenant-General Sir Peter Beale, 65; Professor Alexander Boksenberg, FRS. astronomer, 63; Major Sir David Butter, former Lord-Lieutenant of Perth and Kinross, 79; Mr J.P. Dawson, trade unionist, 59; Miss Lois Dyer, international physiotherapy consultant, 74; Mr Pat Eddery, jockey, 47: Sir William Fraser, Chancellor, Glasgow University. 70; Sir Peter Harrop, former civil servant, 73; Mr Alex Higgins, snooker player, 50: Profes-sor Celia Hoyles, mathematician.

53; Mr Patrick Kavanagh, former deputy commissioner, Metropoli-tan Police, 76; Professor Linda Partridge, FRS, evolutionary biologist, 49; Mr Courtney Pine, jazz saxophonist, 35; Professor Sir Gor-don Robson, anaesthetist, 78; Mr Alan Sapper, former trade union-ist, 68; Mr Barry Shaw, Chief Constable, Cleveland, 58; Mr Nicholas Snowman, general director, Glyndebourne Festival Opera, 55: Mr Ingemar Stenmark, skier, 43; Vice-Chancellor, University of

Middle Temple The following have been elected

writer, 67.

Wales, 69; Mr John Updike,

Masters of the Bench of the Middle Temple: Mr A.R.H. Newman, QC, Mr C.M. Treacy, QC, Mr G.F. Laurence, QC and the Hon P.C.H. Simon, QC.

School news

LVI and LV JVT and IV
Jehan Adamali, Hillcrest School: Elizabeth
Chadwick, Royal High School: Gillian
Regusson, Farlingson School: Samantha
Lambart, St Catherine's School: Victoria
Lyle, Tormead School (LV); Garren O'Reilly.
Our Lady and St Patrick College: Seland,
Shah, Hillcrest School: Besky Waller, St
Catherine's School: Lucy Youtan, Farlingson
School

TV
Tom Boardman, St Edmund's School,
Hindhead; James Brookes, Cranleigh Prep
School; James Clark, Pennthorpe School;
Edward Daggett, Cranleigh Prep School;
Gregory Dodwell, Ripley Court School;
Daniel Pallon, Great Ballard School; William
Hammen, Pennthorpe School; Annu Lewis,
Guildford High School; Sam Tippetts,
Cranleigh Prep School; Tim Williams,
Barfield School.

Holly Bacter, Music, Tormend School; Leonora Edwards, Music, Tormend School; Leonora Edwards, Music, Tormend School; Dominic Hargmond, Drama. Cranleigh School; Victoria Lyle, Music, Tormend School [LV]: Marcus O'Donovan, Drama, King Edward's School, Wiley; Catherine Staples, Music, St Catherine's School.

IV
Alassair Callender, Music, Brambletye
School: Ben Constandaros, Music, Westbourse
House School: Max Panflarer, Music,
Dorset House: School: Grant Greenham,
Music, Haslemere Prep School: Tom Platt,
Art. Haslemere Prep School: Edward
Prince, Music, Westbourne House School:
William Rigby, Music, Westbourne House
School: Leo Selleck, Music, Cramleigh Prep
School:

IV Michael D'Arcy, St Edmund's School, Hindhead; Robert Jones, Amerbury; William Jones, Cranleigh Prep School; Jeremy Martin, Hastemere Prep School; Robin Williams, Cranleigh Prep School; Robin Williams, Robin Will

Guildford High School Scholarships and Exhibitio

Academie Scholarshipe 7+: Genevieve Bruzon, GHS; II+: Jennifer Ayers, GHS; 6th Purm: Katie Beal-Preston, GHS. Keara Brennan, St Teresa's School, Sarah Pennant, GHS. Pippa Toples, GHS. Mesic Scholanships II- Music Harriet Wheeler, GHS; 6th Form Major Music Emily Baker, GHS; Laura Pearson, St John the Baptist School; 6th Form Music Axvy Harrison, GHS, Miriam Horrocks, GHS.

Exhibithness II • Music: Lara Moffet, Danes Hill School: 6th Rorm Music: Elizabeth Franklin, GHS.

Luncheons

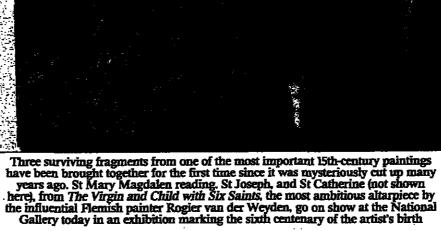
M id-Atlantic Club Lord Richard, QC, was the guest of honour and speaker at a luncheon of the Mid-Atlantic Club held yesterday at Dartmouth House. Lord Ezra, Chairman of the Ener-gy and Technical Services Group.

Maple Leaf Club
Ms Ann MacMillan, European
correspondent for the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, was the guest of honour at a luncheon of the Maple Leaf Club held yesterday at Over-Seas House, St James's Mrs Judith M. Steiner, chairman of the club, presided. Mr Robert Zeller also spoke.

Receptions

Royal Aero Club
The Duke of York, President of the Rayal Aero Club, was received by Mr David Cole, chairman, and presented the annual awards at a reception held yesterday at the club. The Gold Medal was presented to Ms Jackie Young and the Britannia Trophy to Mr Brian

The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs was the host at a reception held last night at 1 Carlton Gardens for CSV (Community Service Volunteers) the UK's leading volunteer organisation. Among the guests were: Lord Levy, Sir Brian Jenkins, Mr Andrew Rose, MP, and the Hon William Flowden (Trustees). Mr Pand the Hon William Flowden (Trustees). Mr Pand Boateng, Mrinister of State, Home Department, Baruness Pike, Lord and Lady Handyn, Sir Victor Bank, Mr Alan Rusbhridger, Ms Lindsay Mackie and Ms Anne McGuire, MP.



CIWEM Professor Chris Baines, environ-

tions were made to the winners of the Chris Binnie Award for Sus-

tainable Water Management and the CIWEM and Diploma Award

vinners. Senior members of the

water and environmental manage-

ment profession were present.

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

Mr Edward Clay to be High

Commissioner to Cyprus from May in succession to Mr David

Madden who is moving to a new

Diplomatic Service appointment.

Mr Creon Butler to be Chief Fornomist and Head of the For

nomic Relations Department at

the Foreign and Commonwealth

Mr Tom Harris to be Director

General, Trade and Investment US, and Consul General, New

Mrs Lynn Camsell and Mrs

Doreen Elwell to be Deputy Lieutenants of Northumberland.

Northumberland

Office from next month.

Yark.

Appointments

Dinners

Cutlers' Company Mr Barry Jackson, President of the Royal College of Surgeons, was a speaker at the Cutlers' Company annual surgical award dinner held last night in Cutters' Hall. During the evening Mr Peter Watts, Master, presented the Cutlers' Surgical Prize for 1998 to Mr D.A. Murphy for his invention of a second generation endoscopic needie holder. Mr R.D. Regan also spoke el 4

Among others present were: The President of the Association of Surgeons of Creus Brissin and Ireland, the Officer Commanding 256 (London) Field Hospital RAMC (V), the Secretary of the Royal College of Surgeons of England, the Master of the Homer's Company, the Master Cutter in Hallamshire, Dr K. Thorne and Mr. Alderman R G Finch.

Mr Patrick Garland, President of the Dramatists' Club, presided at the ninetieth anniversary dinner held last night at the Garrick Club, Sir Donald Sinden and Miss Among those present were: Lord Morris of Castle Morris, Lady Sinden, Miss Patricia Routledge, Miss Eileen Ar-kins, Miss Angela Rippan, Mr Alec McCow-an, Mr Ned Sherrin and Mr Bill Shepherd.

Maryleboue Cricket Club The Treasurer of MCC. Mr Michael Melluish, was in the Chair at a Club Dinner held at Lord's last night. Mr Peter Baxter proposed the toast to "Cricket", and Mr Colin Ingleby-Mackenzie

Anniversaries

Professor Chris Baines, environmental advisor, writer and broadcaster, was the principal guest at
the Chartered Institution of Water
and Environmental Management's Annual Council Dinner
held last night at the Café Royal,
London. Dr Peter Matthews, president, was in the chair. Presentations users made to the witness of ham, 1869; Wilfred Owen, poet, Oswestry, 1893; Robert Donat, actor, Manchester, 1905. DEATHS: Edward the Martyr,

Switzerland, 1980. The Tolpuddle Martyrs were sentenced to transportation for forming a trade union, 1834. The Commune rising began in Paris, 1871.

onov made the first walk in space from his craft Voskhod 2, 1965. More than 30,000 tons of crude oil were disgorged when the Torrey Canyon was wrecked off Cornwall,

REDE - Violet May, widow of Sir Lindsay Ride late Vice Chancellor of the University of Hong Kong, on 16th March 1999 at Christchurch. Loved and sadly missed by her many frienda, and especially by Elizabeth Ride, Sister Margaret Mary SPB, David Ride, Anne and James Jolly. Funeral Service at Christchurch Priory on 25th March at

Service at Christenuren
Priory on 25th March at
2.30pm followed by
private cremation.
Flowers, or preferably
gifts to Charity, to Harry
Tomes Undertakers of

Manwaring Robertson
CVO aged 82 on 18th
March 1999, much loved
husband of Pamela and
dearly loved father,
Funeral Service St Mary's
Church, Newick, Sussex at
12 noon on Thursday 25th
March 1999, Family
flowers only.

SPENCER - Patricie Iris
Madeline (Bridger),
peacefully on 12th March
in her Sist year. Beloved
wife of Arthur and dear
mother of Michael,
Elizabeth, Caroline and
Janet and grandmother of
Sheena, Nuals, James,
Alice and Victoria.
Puneral on Monday, 29th
March, 2pm, St Mary's
Church, Adderbury. No
flowers, Donations to
Mears Humphris, 32
Albert Street, Ranbury,
Oxon OX16 BDG for the
Besson Ward, The
Radeliffs Infirmary,
Oxford, To sid the care of
stroke victims.

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Tower Road, Bose

BIRTHS: Grover Cleveland, 22nd American President 1885-89 and 24th President 1893-97, Caldwell, New Jersey, 1837; Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov, composer, Tikhvin, Rus-sia, 1844; Rudolf Diesel, engineer. Paris, 1858: Neville Chamberlain, Prime Minister 1937-40, Birming-

King of England 975-78, murdered at Corfe Castle, Dorset, 978; Fra Angelico, painter, Rome, 1455; Philip Massinger, dramatist, Lon-don, 1640; Robert Walpole, 1st Earl of Orford, the First Prime Minis-ter 1721-42, London, 1745; Lauter 1721-42, London, 1745; Lau-rence Sterne, writer, London, 1768; John Horne Tooke, politician and philologist, London, 1812; Marcelin Berthelot, chemist, Paris, 1907; George I, King of Greece 1863-1913, assassinated, Salonika, 1913; Eleu-therios Venizelos, Greek Prime Minister 1910-15, 1917, 1924 and 1928-30, Paris, 1936; Farouk I, King of Egypt 1936-52, Rome, 1965; Erich

February L

Forthcoming marriages

Mr J.A.S.S. Andrews and Dr A.L. Shakespeare

The engagement is announced between Joshua, son of Mr and Mrs Anthony Andrews, of Hampshire, and Abigail, daughter of Dr and Mrs John Shakespeare, of Lancashire.

Mr A.J. Brod

and Miss S.E. Bramley The engagement is announced between Alex, elder son of Mr Thomas Brod, of Hampstead, London, and of Mrs Linda Brod, of Cricklewood, London, and Susan, daughter of Mr and Mrs Barry-Bramley, of Effingham, Surrey. Mr A.G. Butterwick and Miss B.I. Gilling

and Miss K.I. Gamignasa.
The engagement is announced between Guy, youngest son of Mr and Mrs Antony Butterwick, of Pinkneys Green, Berkshire, and Beth, daughter of Mr and Mrs Derek Gillingham, of Seer Green. Buckinghamshire.

Ear Ing T.W.H. Chance and Miss F.M.L. O'Sullivan The engagement is announced between Timothy, elder son of Mr Hugh Chance, of Sama Cruz, California, and Mrs John Wheeler,

of Biterly. Shropshire, and Fiona, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Owen O'Sullivan, of Dublin, Mr D.J.H. Charles and Miss V.C. Crawley

The engagement is announced between Daniel, only son of Mr and Mrs Michael Charles, of Netley Abbey, Hampshire, and Victoria, second daughter of Mrs Marilyn Crawley, of Newcastle woon Type

Mr C.J.C. Crookshank and Miss L.P. Angliss The engagement is announced between Charles, son of Mr John Crookshank, of Westbourge, Hampshire, and Mrs Denis O'Brien, of London, and St Louis, USA, and Lucy, danghter of Mr Simon Angliss, of Great Bookham, and Mrs Paul Richardson, of Clandon, Surrey.

Dr J. Cohen and Miss S.C.E. Telfer The engagement is announced between Jeremy, son of Mr and Mrs Martin Cohen, of St Albans, Hertfordshire, and Sara, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Ian Telfer, of Altea, Spain.

and Miss I.J. Trist The engagement is announced between Alan, son of Mr and Mrs William Elder, of Troon. and Isabel, daughter of Mr and Mrs Richard Trist, of Portsmouth.

Mr G.O. Ford

and Miss N.A. Bamford The engagement is announced between Gareth, son of Mr and Mrs Owen Ford, of Oakley, Hampshire, and Nicola, younger daughter of Mr Michael Bamford, of Cape Town, South Africa, and Mrs Susan Bamford, of Chetenham.

Flight Lieutenant D.A. Livingstone and Miss S.E. Hyde
The engagement is aunounced between Duncan, younger son of Dr and Mrs Maitland Livingstone, of Stone. Aberdeenshire, and Sarah, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Leslie Hyde, of Ivinghoe, Buckinghamshire.

Mr N.G. Orfanides and Miss D.J. Stephens

The engagement is announced between Nicolas, only son of Mr and Mrs Georges N. Orfanides, of Madrid, and Dinah, daughter of Mr and Mrs B.F. Stephens, of Salisbury, Wilishire. The marriage will take place in Spain.

Mr M. Paddock and Miss A.J. Hunter The engagement is announced between Matthew, younger son of Mr and Mrs Brian Paddock, of Britham, Devon, and Alexa, elder daughter of Mrs Rozanthe Hine-Haycock, of Kingswear, Devon,

and of Mr Timothy Hunter. Mr R.M. Talbot Garman and Miss M.J. Alonso Gallego The engagement is announced between Rupert, eldest son of Mr

and Mrs David E. Talbot Garman, of Llanfihangel Rhydithon, Radnorshire, Powys, and "Pepa", eldest daughter of Señor and Señora de Alonso Thous, of Torrelodones, Madrid.

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Dr P.F. Worth and Miss C.G. Barker The engagement is armounced between Paul, son of the late Major Joseph Worth and of Mrs Worth, of Salisbury, Wiltshire, and Camilla, daughter of Mr and Mrs Timothy

Barker, of Thorpe Morieux, Suffolk

Church news

Retirements and resignations The Rev Cyril Astill, Priest-in-Charge, Burton Agnes w Har-pham and Lowthorpe w Ruston Parva (York) retired February 1. The Rev David Bond, Rector, Northiam St Mary (Chichester) retired February L

The Rev Roy Cotton, Rector, Brede w Udimore (Chichester) retired February L

The Rev Brian Cranwell, Vicar, Handsworth Woodhouse St James (Sheffield) retired February 1. The Rev Ben Elliott, Vicar, Mere w West Knoyle and Maiden Bradley (Salisbury) retired January 31. The Rev Patrick Forbes, Press Officer, Mission to Seamen, re-

tired January 16.
The Rev Philip Jones, Honorary Chaplain, Portsmouth Cathedral. and with permiss (Portsmouth) retired February 23. The Rev Avril Jordan, Curate, Ottery St Mary, Allington, West Hill and Tipton St John w Venn Ottery (Exeter) retired February I. The Rev Thomas Kenny, Vicar, Stockton Heath (Chester) retired

The Very Rev Stuart Morris, Rector, Hadleigh, and Rural Dean of Hadleigh (St Edmundsbury & Ipswich) retired February 1. The Rev Malcolm Roberts, Rector,

Fiskerton w Reepham (Lincoln) retired February I. Canon Derek Ryder, Team Rector, Wexcambe (Salisbury) retired Jan-The Rev Geoffrey Sansome, Vicar,

Marbury (Chester) retired February :
The Right Rev Frank Sargeant.
Bishop at Lambeth Palace (Head
of Staff) (Canterbury) retired Febru-

ary I. The Rev Brian Shannon, Vicar, Great Wakering w Rouiness (Chels-mford) to retire June 30. Camon Trevor Shannon, Vicar, Gt Illord St Clements and St Margaret (Chelmsford) retired February

The Rev David Smith, Priest-in-Charge, Arlington, Folkington and Wilmington (Chichester) retired February 1. ion Guy Si Kidderminster West (Worcester) retired February 28.

The Rev Patrick Wooster, Vicar, Stone w Woodford and Hill (Gloucester) retired Pebruary 1. Miss Rachel Barker, Cumbria Education Authority: to be Strate-

gic Education Adviser (Bradford). Mr Malcolm Halliday, Diocesan Secretary (Bradford): to be Lay Canon of Bradford Cathedral (same diocese).

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PERSONAL COLUMN

TRADE; 0171 481 1982 FAX: 0171 481 9313

I will freely sacrifice unto thee: I will praise thy name, O LORD; for it is good Psaim 54.6 (AV).

BIRTHS CLARKE - Martin and Frances (née Layton) give thanks to God for the birth of their daughter Freya Hilary Sution on 24th February, a sister for Eleanor and Verity.

COULSON - On Seturday February 27th 1999, to Claudia inde Cadburyl and lvo. a daughter. Jasmine Natasha Cadbury. DOVEY - On February 14th and Glenn, a son, Edward

GIMLETTE - On March 16th 1399, (o Henrietta : née Smyly) and Edward, a son, Alistair, GOODMAN - On 13th March to Juliet (née Finnigan) and Julian, a daughter.

Anna Charlotte, a sister for George August for James.

HUGH SMITH - On March
12th at The Portland
Hospital, to Kate (née
Groy' and Peter, 2
daughter, a sister for Piers
and Lily

RVANIPOUR - On January 9th at The Portland Hospitel, to Soad Mohajerani and Shadi Irvanipour, a son, Sajjad

LIVINGSTONE - On March 15th at The Portland Hospital, to Frances ince Flotcher; and lan, a son, Daniel Anthony, a brother

for Jack. MOONEY - On March 15th at The Portland Hospital, to Jaylene and Robert, a son, Daegan Robert. OLOKE - On March 15th at The Portland Hospital, to Carol and Emmanuel, a daughter, Shona, a sister

PEARSON - On March 15th 1999 in New York City, to Barbera (nee Nicoli) and Stewart, a daughter,

BIRTHS ODMORE - On 15th March 1999 to Susannah (née Barnett) and Maicolm, a daughter, Emilia Marioliese, a sister for

REES - On March 12th, 1999 to Lucy (née Collins) and David, a son, Edward (Nod) Henry Everard, a brother for Benjamin.

ROSE - On March 11th at The Portland Hospital, to Farrah and Tony, a son, Anthony, a brother for ROSS - On March 2nd, to Paul and Joanna (née Tracey), a son, Christophe "Kit" Henry, Deo Gratias.

STREET - On February 27th, to Jane and Bill, a son. George William Leonard. SULLIVAN - On March 12th.

to Jan (nee Bolt) and Mark, a son, John Andrew, a brother for Rebecca. Hannah and Sarah. WHEELER - On Monday, March 15th, 1999, in Jersey, to Anne-Marie inée Stuart-King, and Andrew, a daughter, Georgio Claire Alix Stuart, a sister for Alexander.

DEATHS ALIN - Suddenly at home on 16th March 1999 Dr John Raymond Allin aged 61 years. Most dearly loved husband of Janet, loved and respected father of Richard. Elizabeth, Jim and Lydia, brother of Philip and devoted Grandfather to his little tressure Catherine. Private funeral for family and close friends. Donations if desired to Royal Air Force Benevolent Fund c/o David Holland and Son.

David Holland and Son,
London Road, Gratham.
A service of thanksgiving
will take place at St
Vincents Church,
Caythorpe, Nr Grantham
on Wednesday 7th April at
11 30am

of the late Alexander,
Much loved by her lamily
and by her many, many
friends. A Service of
Gratitude is to be held at
St Peters Church.
Hambledon, m.
Godslning, Surrey at
2.30pm on Friday, 25th
March. No flowers please,
but donations if desired to
The Bursar, Claremont
Fan Court School,
Claremont Drive, Esher,
Surrey, KT10 9LY.

XGE-THOMLINSON Michael Frank. Died 25th January aged 68 years. Memorial Service at Dalston Parish Church, Dalston, Cumbria 20th March 11.00 am. Contact 01227 454360.

ELL-SYER - Squadron Leader H.B. (Michael), A.F.C., RAF (Retta)

DEATHS

AMYES - Anne peacefully on 15th March, aged 80, after a long illness. Widow of Julian, much loved mother of Sebastian and Isabelle and grandmother of Rupert and Alix. Family funeral, no flowers please but donations, if desired, to Imperial Cancer Research Fund. c/o Camp Hopson Funeral Directors. Newbury, (01635) 522210.

ANDERSON - Agnes Joan Anderson - March 13th 1999 very peacefully at Beechlands, Sussex. Wife of the late Alexander: Much level by her forcile

Art. KAF (Ket G)
suddenly at home, aged 80,
on March 12th 1999.
Funeral service at 11.30am
on Monday March 22nd at
St Simon Zelotes, Milner
Street, SW3, Family
flowers only. Donations, if
desired, to R.N.L.L. c/o JH
Kenyon 0171 937 0757.

CHILTON - Elizabeth CHITON - Elizabeth, suddenly on 13th March 1999, in Bognor Regia. Eldest daughter of the late Sir Maurice and Lady Chilton, Funeral at St Mary's Slindon on Tuesday 23rd March at 3.00pm. Enquirles to Reynolds Funeral Service, tel: 01243 884745.

COLES - Ernest Edgar peacefully at home after a mercifully short illness. Family flowers only please but if desired donations to but if desired donations to Macmillan Cancer Relief Fund at King Edward VII Flospital, Midhurst would be greatly appreciated. Fineral at St Laurence, Lurgashall on Saturdey March 27th at noon.

DAVIES - Joan, mother of Hugh and the late Alan, or March 13th 1999 aged 91. Funeral service at St Nicholas Church, Ringwould on Friday March 26th at 11.30am. Donations if desired to The British Red Cross, 25 College Road, Maldstone, Kent. DAVIS - Raiph Patrick. On 16th March 1999, peacefully at home, aged 79 years. Father of John and grandiather of Michael and Rosie. Funeral Service at St Peter & St Paul Church, Chaldon on Monday 22nd March at 2.30 pm. Flowers to Stoneman Funeral Service, Doran Court, Redhill, Surrey.

DREW - Paul Drew, MBE, on 13th March, pascefully at St Mary's House, Seaford, aged 90. Remembered with much affection by friends and family, Puneral 3.15pm, 23rd March, Woodvale Crematorium, Sciebts No. Company

Brighton. No flowers.

HARRUS - On Wednesday
March 10th, with his
family Cyril (Tony) aged 88
years after a short illness.
Formerly Headmaster of
schools in Leicestershire.
A much loved father,
grandfather and greatgrandfather. Funeral
Service at St Michael's
Church, Aylsham, Norfolk
on Monday March 2nd at
2.30 pm. Family flowers
only piesse, but donations
if desired for the National
Trust may be sent to R.B.
Copping & Partners,
Funeral Service, Chape!
Laue, Shotesham,

Norwich NR15 IYP. Tel: 01508 550250.

16th March at Wes

18th March at Weston-super-Mare after a long stoically and bravely borne illness. Assistant County Treasurer at Avor County Council from it's inception until 1888. He leaves a son Christopher, grandchildren Nicholas, Simen, Clementine and Senjamir and a great-granddaughter Eleanor. Ioving, generous man of great wit and personal loving, generous man of great wit and personal courage and commitment to others within the community. Funeral at St Andrew's Church, Cheddar at 11 sm on 23rd Cheddar at 11 am on 23rd March. Flowers to Ceorge Williams Puneral Directors, Redcliffe Street, Cheddar.

LEE - Audrey (Bunty) aged 83. Beloved wife of John Hilary and mother of Ann and Tessa, on 13th March at Addenbrookes Hospital, Cambridge, Unexpectedly but peacarully. Private Cremetion. McCARTAN - On 16th March in Kendai, Edith Inée Lordi, widow of Dr William McCartan, died peacafully aged 97. Funeral private. Family flowers only. Donations to Mind, please.

MRFORD - Pearl (Pat)
passed away 13th March
aged 88. Widow of Harry
Miliord, Funeral 3 pm
Wednesday 24th March
East Chapel Breakspear
Crematorium, Ruislip,
Flowers to H.C. Grimetee Flowers to H.C. Grimstead Ltd., 164 Field End Road, Eastcote, Planer or donations to the Alzheimer's Disease Society. OSBREY - John, Barri Died at home 12th February

Died at home Lither.
February, Funeral service on Friday 26th March at 1.30pm at Temple Church Inner Temple, off Fleet Street, London EC4 followed by cremation at 3.30pm at Mortiste Crematorium and afterwards at Royal Mid-Surray Gelf Club, Richmond, Flowers or if preferred, donations to RSPCA. c/o R. Brain & Gamble, 601 Fulham Read, London SW6. Tel 0171 385 7625.

PICK - On 16th March 1999, peacefully at the Princess Royal Hospital, Beryl of Lindfield, West Sussex. Much loved wife of Charles. Mother of Martin and Sus and an adored grandmother of Namrita, Tara, Katharine and Oliver. Private cremation service. A service of thankagiving will be held at All Saints Church, Lindfield on Friday 25th March at 3.00pm. No Rowers but donations to the N.S.P.C.C. may be sent c/o Masters and Son.

c/o Masters and Son. Lewes Road, Lindfield.

West Street RH16 2LF. (01444) 482107. POWELL - On 14th March 1989, Aliette inée Robertson) wonderful wife, wonderful mother. Funeral Mass at St Josepha Roman Catholic Church, Midiand Road, Bedford on Monday 22nd March at 10.45 am. Flowers to Arnolds Funeral Service, Roff Avenue, Bedford, tel: 01234 358529.

To place death notices, acknowledgements or notices please call 0171 680 6880

The Soviet cosmonaut Alexei Le-

MEMORIAL SERVICES

STANGER - On March 15th following a bravely fought battle against cancer, Nigel of Iesmond, Newcastle upon Tyne, aged 56, Musician and Newcastle Arens Daveloper, died in the arms of his family, Funeral to be held at St Nicholas Church, South Gosforth, Newcastle at 10.45em on Newcastle at 10.45am on Newcastle at 10.45sm on Monday 22nd March. Cremation at West Road Crematorium at 12 noon. Family flowers only please. Donations in lieu of flowers to Cancer Research Campaign, 19 Saville Row. Newcastle

upon Tyne NE1 8JE. TALBOT - Peacefully on 16th
March 1999 at Hatfield
Peveral Lodge Nursing
Home in her \$2nd year,
Margaret Rosch Wilcox,
widow of Geoffrey and
much loved mother,
grandmother and aunt,
Enquiries and flowers to
F.E. Parrer tel: (01277)
622944.

TAYLOR - John Osbrey, see Osbrey. WGURS - (Née Boase)
Wendy, aged 54, died 15th
March after a short illness.
There will be a service of
thanksgiving at 10.30 am
on Tuesday 23rd March at
St Luka's Church,
Ramsden Road, Betterses,
Lander SW13, Piccol. Kamaden Kosa, Bettersen, London SW12 Floral tributes should be sent to J.E. Giliman and Sons, 971 Gerratt Lans, Tooting, SW17 01.W.

COUNCIHUSBAND - John David on March 14th, peacefully, aged 86. Beloved husband of the late Joyce, loving father and grandfather. Private cremation followed by a cremation followed by a
Thanksgrving Service at St
Thomas-a-Backet Church,
Warblington, Havant on
Tuesday 23rd March at
2.30pm, Family flowers
only, donations to The
Royal Medical Benevolent
Fund, c/o Grady's F/D, 23
Mengham Road, Hayling
Island, PO11 9BC.

ADDECOMBE - James WEDECOMBE - James
Murray Widdecombe CB
OBE. A Service of
Thanksgiving for the life
and work of Murray
Widdecombe will be held
on May 17th at 2 pm at St
Phillip's and St Jacob's
Church, (Pip 'n'Jay),
Bristol. Enquiries to Ann
Widdecombe MP.

SERVICES Agency. If you are plump or prefer a plump partner ring 01352 725909

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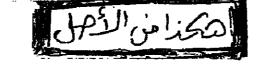
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OBITUARIES

CHRISTOPHER YORK

11 15 1999

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Christopher York, landowner and tormer Conservative M.P. died on March 13 aged 89. He was born on July 27, 1909.

YORKSHIRE landowner and farmer. Christopher York was MP for Ripon, 1939-50, and for Harrogate, 1950-54. A diligent backbencher, he never achieved office, nor really wanted to, but in the postwar period he was a frequent spokesman for his party on agriculture and was admired as a hardworking constituency MP.

Christopher York was the

son of Colonel Edward York of Hutton Hall, Long Marston, near York, a considerable North Riding landowner. He was educated at Eton from where he went to Sandhurst and was commissioned into The Royal Dragoons, serving in India. But after four years he left the Army as a lieutenant to qualify himself as a land agent and equip himself for the administration of the family estate. In 1937 he took over the management of his father's property at Long Marston.

His thoughts were also

turning to politics. He had for some time been chairman of the Yorkshire Federation of the Junior Imperial League and at a by-election at Ripon early in 1939 he easily held the seat in that staunchly Conserv-🌰 ative agricultural heartland. At that stage he was a firm supporter of Neville Chamberlain's appeasement policies in the House of Commons, but when war came a few months later he was re-employed by the Army in the rank of temporary major, and served as a billeting officer in The Royal Dragoons for the remainder of the war.

His House of Commons career did not, therefore, really begin until the end of the war. Ripon, then regarded as one of the safest Tory seats in the country was not affected by the electoral landslide which swept Labour into power and he was able for the next nine years to represent local agricultural interests from the back benches, from 1950 for Harrogate.

York was a conscientious MP and consistently overworked himself. His health, never strong, gave way and in the early 1950s his doctors repeatedly warned him to cut down his workload. In 1954 he resigned his seat and retired to farm and manage his Hutton Wandesley estate, at the same time devoting himself to local public life. He was appointed a Deputy Lieutenant of the West Riding of Yorkshire in 1954 and High Sheriff of Yorkshire in 1966.

He served as President of the Royal Agricultural Society of England in 1979 and had been made an Honorary Fellow of the Royal Veterinary College in 1971.

Christopher York is survived by his wife Pauline. whom he married in 1934, and by his son and three daugh-

MUSICAL

PEREGRINE FELLOWES

Peregrine Fellowes, diplomat and Arabist, died on February 15 aged 86. He was born on July 8, 1912. BORN into the now lost culture of Empire, Peregrine Fellowes grew up with the sense of duty of an English-man abroad. One of his great uncles, Lord Sydenham, was Governor of Bombay, another, Sir Thomas Wrightson. Bt, supplied rail equipment to the whole of the Indian sub-continent. while his father's brother. Air Commo-

dore Peregrine Fellowes, led the Houston Everest Flight of 1933. His father had decided to try his hand at ranching, but when he and his pregnant wife arrived at their holding near Calgary in Canada they made the unwelcome discovery that their agent had absconded with the money intended for a new house. As a result, Peregrine was born in a stable, for which, as he would often observe, there

was an excellent precedent.

After his father's death in the First World War, his mother's next marriage, in 1923, brought Catholicism in its wake. Although his conversion was denounced by his father's family, his education at Ampleforth (where his step-uncle Father Herbert Byrne would be Abbot) and his new faith proved a mainstay throughout his life. Having graduated as a civil engineer from University College London, Fellowes was asked to supervise bridge construction in the Sudan. Believing the job to depend on the assumption that he was a bachelor, he concealed the existence of his wife for the first few months, until he discovered that her presence would merely secure him a larger bungalow. She quickly joined him, and merriment ensued in the prewar playgrounds of the Sudan; South Africa and Kenya.

When hostilities broke out in 1939 his knowledge of Africa led to his inclusion in a small group with a secret mission to regain the Ethiopian throne for Emperor Haile Selassie. Fellowes had some odd jobs. He was responsible for the Mobile Propaganda Unit, a printing press borne by two carnels. This was used to print appeals to the Italians, which were pushed over the barbed wire on bayonets, and, according to legend, frequently resulted in surrender.

Various peculiar orders were re-



Fellowes during his war service in Ethiopia

ceived, of which Fellowes's own favourite was the instruction to accord the Emperor every formal mark of deference but only to address him as Mr Smith. The whole (successful) endeav-our was chronicled by George Steer in his book, Sealed and Delivered. published in 1942.

At the end of the war, Fellowes became a diplomat, and a friend and colleague of Kim Philby. During the late 1940s he was also posted to Cairo with Guy Burgess and Donald Ma-clean. One of his duties was to work with Burgess, decoding sensitive information, all of which was presumably relayed to Moscow. Although horrified by his friend's treason, Fellowes was never quite able to suppress his affection for Burgess, one of the funniest men he ever knew. Having worked with all three spies, he could

only assume that he had been investigated as a possible "fourth man". If he was, nothing but old fashioned patriotism would have been discovered.

His diplomatic career was halted, however, when a wartime attack of tuberculosis flared up in the 1950s, bringing a medical verdict that he could not expect to live beyond 1960. Reluctantly the Foreign Office declined to train him for an ambassadorial role a disappointment only slightly

assuaged, over the years, by his outliving most of his diplomatic contemporaries.

Deeply distressed, he was persuaded by his wife to accompany her to a fortune-teller who, perhaps by previous arrangement, declared that he would live until the age of 72, which still sold him short, but was at least more accurate and encouraging than

medical science. Armed with this news, he declined the offer of a consular career and instead joined Shell. He returned to Africa in 1960 and was appointed head of Shell in Nigeria in the heady, optimistic days after that unhappy country's independence. It was a period of great personal and professional satisfaction, but the subsequent civil war and the deaths of many African friends were a source of lasting sorrow to Fellowes and his wife.

Back in London, he was appointed controller of government and trade relations for Shell International, which saw him travelling extensively in the Middle East. After leaving Shell, he continued to work for Middle Eastern cooperation, through the Ford Foundation and his work for Chatham House. and by producing The New Middle East, a magazine designed to promote understanding between Arabs and Israelis.

Fellowes had many interests, ranging from comparative religion and philosophy to the works of Eric Gill and Arthur Koestler, but above all his heart was political. An early bohemianism, traces of which could be found in his choice of country wear, and a postwar flirtation with socialism had long since given way to a deeply felt traditional Conservatism. William Hague's abandonment of the hereditary peerage dismayed him, and he was engaged in a campaign to promote Lord Cranborne's compromise as a permanent solution to the House of Lords question at the time of his death. He was a Knight of Malta. Despite having one of the worst

tempers in the Western world, Peregrine Fellowes was fortunate in enjoying not one but two successful marriages. His first wife, Olwen, spotted him on a diving board during a university swimming competition and immediately declared that she was determined to meet and marry him. She did, despite strong opposition from both families on the grounds of their extreme youth, and they were happy together for 45 years until her death from cancer in 1980.

Two years later Fellowes married Lady Maureen, daughter of the 4th Earl of Gainsborough and widow of the 15th Lord Dormer. It was, as he said, "an unlooked for, joyous epilogue" to a varied life. She survives him, along with the four sons of his first marriage.

DENIS MORRIS

Denis Morris, OBE, former Controller of the **BBC Light Programme, died** on March 8 aged 91. He was born on June 29, 1907.

DENIS MORRIS brought a great enthusiasm to everything from playing rugby to local council work, BBC management and wine-writing.

He was educated at Tonbridge School, but left before his talent for rugby and cricket had had a chance to develop. For a few years he worked at the family leather firm of George Morris, during which time he had great fun standing in as a signalman on the London to Brighton and South Coast Railway in the General Strike.

He also played for Black-heath RFC, and then for Lyons while spending a year there learning about tanning. Later he played for the Leicester Tigers, and on one occasion he was "carded" by both Leicester and Blackheath for the same game.

He was lured into the advertising business as assistant to one of the directors of Ogilvy & Mather for a short time, but returned to the family firm to work in the Leicester office. During this period he served on Leicester City Council, defeating a Labour incumbent who was due to be made Lord Mayor three days later.

After he retired from the game he began broadcasting about rugby and cricket in his spare time, which led to his joining the BBC Midlands Region as a talks producer in 1936. He began the Listeners Answer Back programme, one of the earliest of its kind.

During the war he was director of the Midland Region of the Ministry of Information - one of the earliest public relations officers — and among other things he was involved in showing George VI round Coventry after the devastating raid of November

He returned to the BBC in Birmingham in 1943 as programme director, a position he held until 1960. During this time he encouraged many producers including Charles Parker, the inventor of the radio ballad, whose John Axon GM won the Italia Prize. radio's most coveted award. He was also instrumental in

Grace Archer, which was arranged to coincide with the first night of the new ITV service as a rival attraction. He also did a certain amount of broadcasting himself.

He moved to London in 1960 as chief and subsequently controller of the Light Programme, from which he retired in 1967, having overseen the setting up of Radios 1 and 2. He was happy to be a maverick against the complacency of those at the top of the BBC, whom he saw as "in some ways dedicated and marvellous and in others exceedingly pompous".

His first book, Poultry Keeping for Profit and Pleasure, the result of a hobby that helped to pay four sets of school fees, had appeared in 1949 and introduced the cartoonist Thelwell to the world. He also wrote The French Vineyards in



months' leave of absence from the BBC travelling around France with his wife.

He spent 20 years as the wine correspondent of The Daily Telegraph and The Field, which led to two more books. He also found time to produce the first of many reports on the future of cricket for the MCC (he had been a keen club cricketer for the likes of the Sussex Martiets and the Gentlemen of Leicestershire): to serve on the public relations committee of the Test and County Cricket Board: to act as deputy chairman of the Lord's Taverners' council: to chair the Shoreham Conservative Association and twice act as its president; and to sit on the committee of the St Francis and Lady Chichester Hospitals.

He married twice. His first marriage, from which he had a son who pre-deceased him. was dissolved in 1942. He married Catharine Garrett in the birth of The Archers and 1943 and she survives him. helped to plan the death of together with their son.

KLAUS GYSI

Klaus Gysi, East German publisher, diplomat and politician died in Berlin on March 6 aged 87. He was born there on March 3, 1912.

AN ABLE diplomat and politician, in the 1980s Klaus Gysi. as Secretary of State for Church Affairs, was given the task by the East German leader Erich Honecker of trying to tame the former German Democratic Republic's Protestant Churches and prevent them from criticising the country's Communist regime. In the event he had been handed a poisoned chalice and though he prided himself on his diplomatic savoir faire, he ended up promising Lutheran Church leaders more than he could deliver, and got himself sacked in the process.

The East German churches, mainly Lutheran, had been a permanent thorn in the side of the regime. But Gysi, a renowned conciliator, thought

SITUATIONS

he could win them over and bring them into line with the political establishment. He was convinced that the GDR's relatively liberal religious policies were far superior to those of Moscow Indeed in May 1981, addressing the Royal Institute of International Affairs in London - itself an unprecedented event for a Soviet bloc minister - he proudly, if somewhat self-deludingly, described his liberal church policy as a "great historic experiment."

But he was bound to fail, and as Communist power began to crumble, the Protestant Church provided the support needed to express popular discontent. In 1988, at the millennium celebration of the Russian Orthodox Church in Moscow, Gysi rashly promised the presiding East German Lutheran bishop a meeting with the Party's top leadership to iron out differences. But he had not consulted the

ANNOUNCEMENTS

0



Gysi: attempted to tame East Germany's churches

Prime Minister, Willi Stoph, and on his return home he was summarily dismissed by the Politburo.

On July 13 that year the press announced his retirement "on health grounds". That evening he went to a reception at the Italian Embassy and smilingly greeted his host with the words: "Mr

THE DUKE OF

YORK'S

Ambassador, I'm sure you can see how ill I am."

Gysi was an untypical mem-ber of the nomenklatura, the establishment of the GDR. With Swiss antecedents and one Jewish grandparent, he grew up in a middle-class intellectual environment. His father was a doctor who chose to serve the poorest of Berlin's poor. At 16 he joined the Young Communist League.

He studied economics in Frankfurt, Paris, Innsbruck and Berlin but in 1935 - being both partly Jewish and a Communist — he fled from Hitler's Germany to France. Interned briefly when the Second World War started, he then went underground, working first with the French Resistance and later, even more dangerously, in Berlin

itself. In 1945 he was appointed Mayor of the West Berlin borough of Zehlendorf, but a year later began a long, colourful career in East German public life. In the drab greyness of East Berlin bureaucracy, this physically very small, witty iconoclast was an unusual figure whose gently cynical and rather Jewish sense of humour never left

He began as editor of the cultural journal Aufbau ("Reconstruction") and was from

the outset a member of the Volkskammer (East German parliament). From 1949 he was Secretary of the Kultur-bund, the office for culture. and from 1957 to 1966 the head day a significant literary publishing house. In 1966 he was made Minis-

ter of Culture. In that office, if he was not able to to push out the frontiers he nevertheless had the ability to rein in the worst effects of hard-line Stalinism. Asked by a young producer why Andrei Tarkovsky's film Stalker could not be shown, he characteristically laughed, clapped the young man on the shoulder and said: "Don't worry, my boy, just wait long enough and we'll have to back down."

In 1973 he was sent as Ambassador to Rome. There, he was popular and enjoyed the company of the Italian cultural elite - cardinals not excluded — much more than that of his comrades at home. His proverbial love of women fitted notions of la dolce vita a lot better than the puritanism of the Party. He fathered seven children by a number of

liaisons. In 1979 he was briefly Secretary of the GDR Committee for Security and Co-operation, the Helsinki Treaty process. It was after this that he was called by Honecker to the office of Secretary of State for Church Affairs.

Gysi was no hero and after his political downfall publicly acknowledged that he had served "the red god" for too long. Housebound after a stroke throughout his last vears, he was cared for by his much younger actress wife with tender devotion.

He is survived by his wife and his seven children, one of whom, Gregor Gysi. is the parliamentary leader of the Party of Democratic Socialism, the successor to the East German Communist Party.

JOSEPH RANK

Joseph Rank, businessman, died on February 10 aged 80. He was born on April 24, 1918.

ily business before the war, Joseph Rank left the large combine Ranks Hovis McDougall as chairman in 1981 with some 52,000 employees worldwide. He understood that the business must not overestimate public taste. "The white sliced loaf is what the housewife wants," he said - and it is

what she got.

Educated at the Wells in Battersea in 1936.

In 1940 he was called up into the RAF, serving as personal pilot to the AOC 29 Group and later in Transport Command. where he was involved in the bridgehead operations following D-Day. In 1944 he was transferred to South East Asia Command, dropping supplies throughout the Burma campaign. In September 1945 he was appointed personal pilot to Air Chief Marshal Sir Keith Park, before being demobi-

lised in January 1946. in repairing and rebuilding flourmills of the company's

HAVING joined a small fam-

House, Malvern Wells, and Loreno, Joseph McArthur Rank was the grandson of the Joseph Rank who in 1875 had formed the family flour-milling business in Hull. He joined his father's flour milling company, Mark Mayhew.

On resuming his career after the war, Mr Joseph (as he was known) became involved

that had been bomb damaged

during the war.

Declining flour consumption threatened the future of the business, as did the Allied

Bakeries Group, whic hhad acquired several British plant bakeries. The decision was taken to buy suitable bakery businesses and Rank became immersed in a major expansion of the group. Rank next acquired agricultural, merchant and feeding stuffs businesses to reduce the company's dependence on flour. Then, after the acquisition of Hovis-McDougall in 1965. Rank became the deputy chair-

man and chief executive of the new Rank Hovis McDougall. In 1968 the company acquired the Cerebos Group. including branded names such as Bisto, Paxo stuffing. Saxa and Sifta salt, Scotts Porridge Oats, Atora suet, Chesswoods mushrooms and the Sharwood label. In the 1970s, under Rank's chairmanship these overseas interests

wide grocery acquisitions. Rank maintained a close involvement with the governing body of the Royal Alexander and Albert School from 1952 and with the Royal College of Physicians, where he became an honorary fellow in 1978. He was the first High Sheriff of East Sussex

were consolidated, with world-

(1974-75) He is survived by his wife. Moira, only surviving child of 3rd Baron Southborough, and by their son and daughter.

PERSONAL COLUMN

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	0171 373 5108 (after 7pm)	NO: 001234 OF 1999	Wednesday 31st March 1999. ANY Creditor of Shareholder of the
		IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE	enic Company desiring to oppose
	SHARE-A-FLAT LIG. For a last, con	CHARGERY DEVISION	the making of an Order for the con- firmation of the said concellation
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	ing service (0171) 464 4133	MERRYDOWN PLC	should appear at the time of the bearing in person or by Counsel
	4	IN THE MATTER OF THE	for that purpose.
		COMPANIES ACT 1985 NUTTICE IS REMENT GIVEN that	A copy of the said Petition will be furnished to any such petited re-
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	FLIGHTS	rice (Chancery Division) dated 10	tioned Solicitons on payment of the regulated charge for the same.
• 1	DIRECTORY	starch 1999 confirming the reduc- tion of the chase premium account	DATED this 15th day of March
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	- 1	23,675,931 was registered by the Sections of Companies on 15	2 Serjeents Inn
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	·		were appointed joint tiquidance of the company with effect from 2
			March 1999.
		7][The creditors of the above-named comments are required on or before
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	979		foresses and descriptions, full per-
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	111	be notified to	and the manner and addresses of
	Picture serial Cycoli project and Mrs. J. Nacomo, Court & Sec	of Advertising The Thomas	their sufficients (if any), to the un- densigned Bickerd House of KFAG.
			70 Bar 930, 20 Ferringdon Street,
	Tel: 0171 782 7347	Fee: 0171 782 7725	Lundon SCAA 427, joint liquidator of the said company, and, if so re-
	115		quired by notice in writing from

Para include in all consequentees: 2-agustion of either one of the parties concerned or a parent, a they true and home telephone number and address.

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LEASING (VIRGH ISLANDS) LTD
IN THE MATTER OF THE
INSULVENCY ACT 1996
INTICE IS HEREET GEVEN that R
lede of Kyring, Processor, 20, 20 Perhagion Strang, London ECAA 447
and H Settem of Processor Money SALE Installation often within 2 days Call us 7 days a week 9am-6pm Most stairs fitted Value guaranteed and H Sattem of Pricematerhouse-Doppers, No 1 Loudon Bridge, Lou-lem S21 902. and 1 Generators, PMG, FO Box 650, Road Town, bridge, Editah Virgin Islands are appointed joint lighthause of the company with effect from 2 larch 1999. be craditors of the above named Suaranteed boy-back at any future date Call FREE 0800 371 982 anch 1999.

be condition of the above-named suppose are required, on or balow April 1999, to send in their full returness and suscentiates, dedic advenses and descriptions, full parculates of their debts or claims, division and conveyance and planta, and the manus, and advances or hair solicitors (if any), to the undersigned litchard Blains of KFMC, TO Sea 750, 20 Ferringdom-Street, London SCAA 487, joint liquidator of the said company, and, if so required by motion in writing from the said joint liquidator, and, purchashly, or by their solicitors, to come in and prove their debts or theirs at year their said solice as shall be specified in such solice, or in dealurt (person they will be accluded from the benefit of any distribution made before reach debts are provided.

Date 15 Hough 1979 LEGAL PUBLIC, COMPANY & **PARLIAMENTARY NOTICES** TO PLACE NOTICES IN THESE SECTIONS PLEASE.

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MR HUGH WALPOLE'S NEW ROMANCE Rogne Herries by Hugh Walpole (Macmillan, 10s 6d, [52p] net.) A NEW fashion for spacious romance seems to be setting in, and it is a fashion that

will be anything but uncongenial to such a born romancer as Mr. Hugh Walpole, as he shows in this very long but highly readable novel. It is a "period" novel, full of carefully studied local colour, with bustling scenes of ensemble – fairs, wedding feasts, and junkerings — bright dresses and hurid language, with a discreet use of historical evenus and a great deal of enthusiastic scene painting. The scene is Borrowdale in particular, and the Lake Country in general; the period is from 1730 to 1774; and the central figure is Francis Herries, rake, roysterer, and man of violent passions, who, unlike the majority of his family, was a "dream-mon-ger", a man isolated from his fellows by some kind of inner farality. As the book opens we find him riding, with his wife, children, servants, and mistress, to take up his abode in the deserted Herries' house at Rosthwaite, in Borrowdale. It is a good rousing opening at an inn in Keswick. What follows is a chronicle

of two threads. The life of Francis Herries is

ON THIS DAY

March 18, 1930

Rogue Herries was the first of the Herries saga, the popular and highly successful novels by Hugh Walpole (1884-1941), author and man of letters.

that of a man possessed by a strange demon. He becomes legendary in Borrowdale, a romantic, satanic figure, who sells his mistress in the eating booth of a fair, treats his family with alternate brutality and affection. and conceives a strange passion for a gypsy child with flaming red bair, whom he finds again later at the siege of Carlisle in 45, whose lover he sees stabbed, and with whom he contracts a mad marriage in the sequel. Herries, in his latest years, living alone with an old man-servant, wanders with his haunting, scarred face over the fells, seeking for that second wife, Mirabell, who left him because he loved her too madly and she did

not love him at all. But he and his wife die happy in the end, at the moment that their child is born.

The other thread is the growth of David, the son, into a Herries of pure breed, good temper and enormous thews, popular all over the dale, a champion at wrestling and singlestick -- the essence, in fine, of a normal

Englishman. David's protective affection for his father and for his younger sister Deborah is a very sympathetic trait. He prospers in trade and farming, and his one romantic action is to abduct his bride from a curmudgeonly uncle at Wasdale and to fight for his life and love in a fog by Sprinkling Tarn, into which, with a mighty heave, he throws his adversary. Our best view of David is when he presides, a patriarch, at the May by least at Fell House, with his family and all the quality around him. and the great Football Game takes place — an epic description — which closes with David's throwing off his mulberry coat and flowered vest, plunging into the fray, and, in combina-tion with Squire Peel's two sons, dribbling the ball between the posts. Like David Herries, this novel of Mr. Walpole's is thoroughly English: it is ample, broad and florid, but moves a little slowly. In fine, this is a tapestry rather than a drama, but woven of rich and substantial material.

NEWS

'No payoffs for eurocrats'

■No European Commissioner found guilty of fraud or misconduct should receive a payoff, Tony Blair and William Hague agreed. Commissioners could receive payouts worth as much as £300,000, but the Tory leader said that the money should not go to those "forced to resign in disgrace". The Prime Minister said: "In respect of the payoffs, of course, if someone is guilty of

Top school abandons A levels

MOne of Britain's leading independent schools has told parents that it intends to abandon A levels, just two days before the Government announces a reform of the sixth-form curriculum. Sevenoaks School in Kent, the top co-educational school in last year's Times examination tables. is to offer only the International Baccalaureate (IB) to new entrants... ...Pages I, 4

Hospital survey

Medical standards in Britain's 300 private hospitals are to be investigated and monitored for the first time under government proposals to stop further health scan-

Policewomen sue

Two women police constables who claim they suffered psychological trauma after the Dunblane massacre are suing their force for £400,000 each Page 1

Clinton pressure

President Clinton was last night putting pressure on Northern Ireland leaders to break the deadlock over decommissioning of terrorist arms and push the peace process forward...

Case reopened

Police are to conduct DNA tests on more than 200 men after reopening files on a killing 15 years ago known as the "Beauty in the Bath" murder....

New car pricing

The pricing of new cars is to be investigated by the monopolies watchdog after a report that lambasts r manufacturers......Page 6

Rector loses case

A Rector has lost his landmark legal case brought after his bishop decided to reduce the size of his Church of England parish by more than half Page 7

Tempting games Schools are being advised to tempt girls into school sports with aerobics, private shower cubicles and the promise of discos withPage 9 male athletes.

New GM attack

Waitrose and the Co-op joined the supermarket revolt against genetically modified foods vesterday. promising to make their own-label brands "GM free" Page 12

Snail's pace

For Mark and Louise Roberts it was the ultimate house-moving nightmare. They had to travel only 55ft - but they were taking their home with them..... Page 13

Serbian 'crime'

A team of Finnish forensic scientists concluded that 40 ethnic Albanians killed at Racak in January were unarmed non-combatants whose deaths were "a crime against humanity".......Page 18

Olympic crisis

Six members were expelled from the Olympic Committee over the "votes-for-favours" scandal in the biggest crisis in the movement's 106 years...

Children 'sold'

Egyptian prosecutors began an investigation into allegations that 25 children died after a charity sold them to private hospitals for organ transplants......Page 21

Ballooners on the last leg

The British and Swiss pilots who are the closest in history to flying around the world in a balloon are racing towards the finish line with dwindling fuel and heat. Brian Jones, 51, was said to be mentally and physically exhausted as the Breitling Orbiter 3 flew over Belize last night, on its 17th day and completing its 20.000th mile_



Tugar, a six-month old Siberian tiger, enjoys the spring sunshine chasing its keeper's leg at Port Lympe Wild Animal Park, Kent

BUSINESS

Year 2000 warning: One of the City's most senior regulators said that a dozen major financial institutions faced closure or risked operational restrictions because they had failed to address problems arising from the millennium bug...Page 32 Rate hopes: Prospects brightened for another cut in interest rates after economic data showed a monthly rise in unemployment....Page 32 TUC plan: John Monks, General Secretary of the Trades Union Congress, fears inter-union turf wars could undermine gains made through the Government's Fairness At Work legislation....Page 32 Markets: The FTSE100 fell 61.3 to 6140.6. The pound rose .55 cents to \$1.6297 and fell .40p to 67.55p 'against the euro... ...Page 32

Football: After defeats by Manchester United and West Ham, Cheisea will be glad of another spell in the lenient land of the Cup Winners' Cup against Valerenga..... Page 56 Rugby union: France have dismissed the Five Nations Championship match against England as no more than a stepping stone on the way to the World Cup...... Page 51 Racing: Call Equiname offered a further tribute to the training skills of Paul Nicholls with victory in the

..Page 53 Cheltenham... Bryant's Eye: If you dream of the ultimate in lazy ways to get fit and then keep fit, then this is most certainly for you. The idea is that you boost your endurance simply by lying in bed

Queen Mother Champion Chase at

Cinema 1: The best of the week's movies is Arlington Road, a nerveshredding study of suburban paranoia with a magnificent performance by Jeff Bridges Page 44 Cinema 2: Thirty years ago British cinemagoers could take their pick of the world's greatest directors. Now the Hollywood mainstream has swept them all away...Page 44 Full Manc Seventy years after it was unveiled on Broadway, the anarchic mayhem perfected by the Marx Brothers in Animal Crackers is let loose on stage......Page 45 Dark days: On August II Cornwall's ancient sacred sites will be in-

TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES

■ MEDIA

and the series

he created

of Mozart

What is happening

with Phil Redmond

■ EDUCATION

Can the music

make your baby

into a genius?

undated with Pagans and tourists come to witness the eclipse. Marcus Binney checks on the county's prep-.. Page 54 arations.

Big wheels: Cars are today's great indicators of a person's class and have given rise to a caste system to rival India's... ...Page 22

Drastic plastic: Card issuers wage electronic war on fraud Page 22 Dr Thomas Stuttaford: A centre for stammering, why the washing up is vital to those with allergies; mental illness and brain scans; planning for a baby for the millennium: _Page 23 eczema.

Survival: Creating opportunity out of crisis: how companies can survive a disaster _____ Pages 35, 36

Reviews: Ed Koch revels in a New York history. Plus reviews of work by Daniel Farson, John Tosh, Peter

Best buys: Easter camp for the children; late cross-country skiing; lastminute.Barbados break.....Page 47

If America is willing to pay the price of defending Kosovo, then it should do so in a way that moves the situation toward the strategic objective of getting rid of Milosevic and minimising the anger Kosovo could present to its neighbours - The Washington Post

PARIO & TV

Preview: An asteroid could strike the Earth (BBC2, 9.30pm) Review: Joe Joseph on Diana's gardens of ____Pages 54, 55 discontent....

OPINION P

Wanted, office cleaner

If the European Commission is to. win the respect of the public it has not only to shed its arrogance and clean house: it must put a stop to the otiose intrusiveness that people rightly resent.....

Welcome Bac

The import of the International Baccalaureate into British schools is good news, as it addresses many of the A level's faults Page 25

Better late than never

The Foreign Secretary is to be commended for a White Paper that rights a colonial wrong...... Page 25

ANATOLE KALETSKY

The Europhiles need not despair and Eurosceptics should certainly not celebrate. Perverse as it may seem, this week may mark a great leap forward for the "European Project"....

MAGNUS LINKLATER

With 50 days to go to the first Scottish elections, the awful whilf of defeat hangs like cordite in the air. How else to explain the Chancel lor's hurried journey north, his greateoat slung across his shoulders, Napoleon-style?.........Page 24

SRDJA TRIFKOVIC

Britain and America are poised to wage war on a European nation just because it has the temerity to believe in itself. Serbia is threatened with a bombing offensive because it acts as any proud nation would - refusing to have foreign troops colonising its soil....Page 24

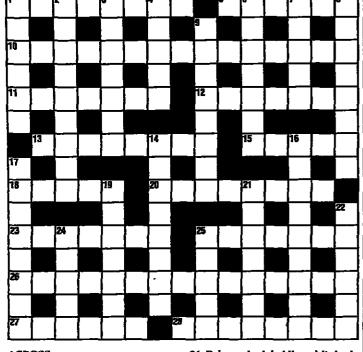
Peregrine Fellowes, diplomat: Klaus Gysi, East German politician; Denis Morris, BBC executive and writer: Christopher York,

former Conservative MP: Joseph Rank, businessman......Page 27

Vehicle taxes; ways to repel sharks; limits imposed on medical training; full-time motherhood; British Library closure; decline in volunteers; prayer and shopping; wed-

... Page 25

ding gifts.....



ACROSS

- Bring in navy to intimidate the whole county (8).
 Be sad about besieging city, such
- as Leningrad (6). 10 Inferior experimental treatment all right to include in collection of
- notes etc. (11,4).
 11 Decide to have another go at
- crossword? (7).
 12 Detective's job to get copy of picture (7).
- 13 Broadcast listener received in part of Ireland (8).
 15 Food is cooked, holding such a
- party (5).

 18 Like gardens with odd angles (5).

 20 Commander scowled and looked
- embarrassed (8).
- 23 Scandalous revelations of model involved in kinky sex (7). 25 Expletive with which poet's expel-
- ling a rude interrupter (7).

Solution to Puzzle No 21,053



26 Being poised, holding girl's back and getting in right mood, per-haps, for this? (8,7). 27 Miss one's lines? Clever fish!

(3-3). 28 It's good to get whatever reward. said cupholder (8).

DOWN Author's cooler, having to go into business (6).

2 Meat market's up for disposal 3 Court has Dickens' little girl up

for made-up yarn (?). Drug after drinks can make one fall badly (5).

6 Horse has power, that's plain (7).

Girl's love accepted by one chap, head over heels (5). Be successful — in frame of mind to consume a lot of beer (4.4).

9 Letter from minister giving rosy picture of the country (8).

14 School supplier folds before spring (4-4).

16 Endless agony, under singular bombardment (9).

17 Do some work in garden, comfortable in a religious thems? (5.2)

able in retirement here? (5,3).

19 Wife maybe alters good-for-noth-

ing (7). 21 Weird bunch missing outside an American city (?).

22 Agreed to cook a sweet [6]. 24 Friendly pressure put on colleague (5) 25 Hercules, young daredevil, re-peatedly attacked heads belong-

TIMES NEWSPAPERS LIMITED, 1999. Published and printed and licensed for distribution in electronic and all other derivative forms by Times Newspapers Ltd, PO Box 495. Virginia Street, London E1 9XN, relephone 0171-782 5000 and also printed at Kitling Road, Present, Merseyside, 134 9HN, relephone 0151-546 5000. Thursday, March IR, 1999. Registered as a newspaper at the Post Office.

ing to this (5). Times Two Crossword, page 56 AA INFORMATION UK Weather- All regions 0336 444 910 UK Reads - All regions 0336 401 410

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☐ General: south-east England and East Anglia will start cloudy with one or 0336 401 746 0336 401 747 0336 401 748 0216 401 910 0336 401 388 two outbreaks of rain, clearing to leave some sunshine. It will turn cooler with showers returning this afternoon. The rest of England and Wales will also be 0336 407 505 The New Office

rest of England and Wales will also be cooler than recently, with a mix of surny spets and showers. Northern tretand and Western Scotland will also have showers it will become more windry and, as the showers turn increasingly wintry, there will be blizzards across the Highlands. Eastern Scotland will escape the worst and be mostly dry with better sunny spets.

| London, SE England, E Anglia, Central S England, E Midlands, E England: early patchy rain, then brighter but cooler with surnry spets and showers. A light morth-westerly wind. Max 13C (55F).

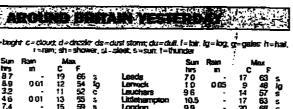
(55F) ☐ W Midlands, S Wales, N Wales, NW England, Lake District, Isle of Man: surry spells but cool with show-ers. A moderate north-westerly wind. Max 12C (54F).

Cotennel Islands, SW England: coder than recently with solated showers, but some sunshine. A moderate north-westerly wind. Max 12C (54F). ☐ Centrel N England, NE England: in-creasingly windy with isolated showers but some good suriny spells. A freshen-ing westerly wind. Max 11C (52F). ☐ Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, Moray Firth, NE Scotland: colder than recently with the odd shower, but some decent surny spells in areas sheltered from the wind. A freshening westerly wind. Max 9C (45-48F). SW Scotland, Glasgow, Argyll, NW Scotland, Orkney, Shetland: Sun-

rry breaks but showery and blustery, the showers turning increasingly wintry. A tresh to strong westerly wind. Max 8C Central Highlands: frequent heavy sleet and snow showers with winds in-creasing to give blizzard conditions at times. A strong to near-gale westerly wind. Max 7C (45F).

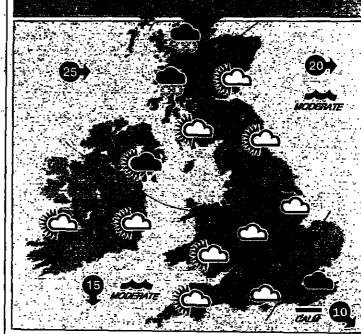
ers and surnry spells. A freeh west to north-westerly wind. Max 10C (50F). [Irish Republic: dry and bright with surnry spells, mainly in east Southwesterly wind, light to moderate. Warm, max 1st (etc.)

Continue cool with further suriny spells and showers, the showers increasingly of sleet and snow in Scotland where it will be windy. Rain will edge into Northern tretand and Western Scotland later and it will be-come cloudier everywhere on Saturday with rain in the north and the best suriny breaks in the south-west.



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Changes to the chart below from noon: low Y will move slowly north and fill gradually. High H will remain slow moving while low Z will move northeast and fill



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Sport, page 52

BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

THURSDAY MARCH 18 1999

Rise in iobless boosts prospect of rate cut

BY ALASDAIR MURRAY **ECONOMICS**

UNEMPLOYMENT began to rise in February while wage growth cooled further. leaving the City confident that interest rate cuts remain on the agenda of the Bank of England.

The minutes of this month's meeting of the Bank's Monetary Policy Committee, out yesterday, also dispelled market fears that the Bank had called a halt to its rate-cutting spree.

Although only Willem Buiter. an independent member of the committee. voted in favour of an immediate cut, the tone of the minutes suggested that the MPC still has a bias to-

wards further easing. Claimant count unem ployment rose by 4.300 in February to 1.31 million. The Government's preferred International Labour Force measure of amemployment also ticked up by 37,000 to 1.84 million in the three months to January.

However, the size of the

workforce again reached a record, rising 119,000 in the three months to January to 27.32 million. Analysts said that the apparent discrepancy in the figures reflected a continued influx into the labour force of people who are not claiming benefits. The newly reinstated average earnings confirmed that wage inflation is cooling.

ond Money website: http://www.limes-money.co.uk

The December headline fig-

ure fell from 4.5 per cent to 4.3 per cent, while the provisional January estimate of 4.2 per cent suggests wage growth is likely to slow further in coming months.

The rise in unemployment and decline in earnings growth brought an immediate response from business and unions, who argued that the door is now open for further rate cuts from the current 5.5 per cent.

The MPC March minutes revealed that the committee accepted that the strong pound, weaker than expect ed GDP growth and slowing wage inflation implied a "slightly lower prospective inflation than thought at the time of the February inflation report".

The Bank also displayed few concerns over the contents of the Budget, despite City fears that Gordon Brown's tax cuts could persuade the Bank to postpone further rate cuts. However, the slight improvement in survey readings led the com-mittee to conclude there was not quite a "sufficient case" for a sixth consecutive cut.

The renewed hopes of interest rate cuts had little impact on the stock market. which followed Wali Street lower. The FTSE 100 index of leading shares closed down 61.3 points at 6,140.6.

The pound also lost ground against the euro but made modest gains against the dollar. The euro rose from 67.15p to 67.55p, while the pound climbed half a cent to \$1.6297.

FSA threatens to shut 12 top firms over bug

By CAROLINE MERRELL BANKING CORRESPONDENT

A DOZEN leading financial institutions have been put on notice by the chief City watch-dog that they face closure because they are so far behind in their preparedness for dealing with the so-called mil-

lennium bug. The Financial Services Authority (FSA) has written to 12 of the UK's biggest financial companies warning them that. in its opinion, their systems are not on track to be year

2000 compliant in time.

According to Michael Foot, managing director of financial supervision at the FSA, the institutions involved are either "household names" or at least 'very widely known" firms. Mr Foot said: "In the last resort and where it is apparent

there is no better way to protect depositors, investors, policyholders, or the integrity of markets, we will take action to restrict a firm's business or in extreme cases to remove its authorisation altogether."

Letters from the FSA to notified financial companies have demanded that they prove they are on track to be year 2000 compliant. The regulator says it has yet to receive any replies. Mr Foot told a conference

yesterday on the financial sector's year 2000 readiness that the 12 firms identified were from a total of 160 that are classified as "high impact" institutions. The failure of a high imnact company would have serious consequences for retail customers and the markets.

He refused to give the names of the companies for legal reasons although the high-impact group includes retail and investment banks, insurance companies and building societies.

The FSA has also written to another 50 companies, in the so-called "medium-impact" group, warning them that their systems are not up to scratch. A spokesman for the FSA said that no organisation under its aegis is yet to have its "green" category of being 100 per cent

millennium comoliant. According to figures to the end of 1998, 58 per cent of the track and 35 per cent at "am-ber" — as yet behind but likely to get on track. In the mediumimpact group, 40 per cent were on track, 45 per cent were at

amber while 15 per cent were at "red" — or non-compliant. Mr Foot declined to give a specific deadline ahead of the turn of the year for initiating legal action against companies that were not millennium compliant.

He said: "With over nine months to go before the millennium the conditions to justify such measures have not yet manifested themselves. As the year goes on, however, time runs out."

The high-impact firms un-der threat have the capital to beat the millennium bug but have simply ignored the potential risks or have not seen it as

a serious threat to the market. Mr Foot said.

in the area of counterparty risk, implying situations where a UK company itself is compliant but can be affected by a non-compliant counterparty in another country, the FSA said it was advising firms on precautionary actions.

The British Bankers' Association disputed that its members, the retail banks, were facing problems. It said UK banks had recently been complimented by the US State Department on their readiness. Barclays Bank said that its systems were at present 90 per cent compliant and would be ready by this summer.

Commentary, page 31

Mulcahy says no fresh deals in pipeline

By Sarah Cunningham

KINGFISHER, the B&Q to Woolworths retail group, saw its underlying profits jump 15 per cent last year as it reaped the benefits of its rapid overseas expansion.

In what it called a "milestone year" the company merged its B&Q DIY arm with France's Castorama, creating Europe's largest DIY group. Expansion of the group's electricals business in France and Germany made it the third-largest Euro-pean electricals retailer.

But Sir Geoffrey Mulcahy, chief executive, yesterday played down expectations that another deal, possibly in Germany, was imminent. The number one priority is to con-centrate on developing the businesses that we've got. Opportunities to expand are not entirely within our gift."

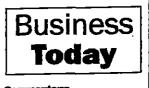
About 40 per cent of annualised sales are now from outside the UK, he said, and he expects the split to be even within two to three years.

Profits before exceptional items and tax in the year to January 30 - which includes one month of Castorama profits rose from £505 million to £582.5 million on turnover up from £6.41 billion to £7.46 billion.

Expansion of the group's portfolio is continuing with plans to open 103 stores this year, creating 4,800 jobs, with 3,200 of them in the UK.

The company confirmed plans to open an out-of-town Woolworths, named "Big W", near Edinburgh in June. It will carry Woolworths usual ranges, plus goods from its Superdrug and Comet subsidiaries. It will also have a garden centre, fast food from ing from Peacocks. The company is looking for other sites in

the UK for further trial stores. A final dividend of 9.25p makes a total for the year of 13p up 13 per cent. The shares fell 17p to 793p after profit-taking on the stock that this week hit an all-time high of 8131/p.



Investors cautious



Graham Searleant

on our chance to reform EU budget

107.5

Commentary, page 31 City Diary, page 33

Michael Foot, the FSA's financial supervisor, said that the institutions concerned were either "household names" or "very widely known" firms Monks calls for a cut

in number of unions

JOHN MONKS, General Secretary of the Trades Union Congress, yesterday launched a radical campaign to modernise the union movement, calling for a drastic reduction in the total number of unions and new membership recruitment procedures.

The TUC is concerned that gains made through the Government's Fairness at Work legislation could be undermined if inter-union turf wars erupt over union recognition cases. However, Mr Monks also made it clear that he wants to set an ambitious goal of building a more logical and efficient union structure over the next ten years, which will accommodate the changing nature of the workplace. He said: "I want to see fewer unions in Britain, organised more logically. That is not to say there is no role for smaller specialist unions or that bigger unions can be broken up and put back together again, but there is

still scope for modernisation."

By Alasdair Murray

In the short term the TUC is keen to establish a more thorough procedure to deal with inter-union disputes arising from the new union recognition legislation. The Central Arbitration Committee, which is to review recognition cases. has already made it clear that it will not proceed with any recognition applications where there is any evidence of inter-



Monks: logical structure

The TUC fears that failed recognition cases could under-

mine the credibility of the new system unless TUC-supported guidelines and sanctions for unions who break the rules are strengthened. The long-term aim is to simplify union structure and make it easier for workers who change jobs to move their

membership. As part of this process, Mr Monks would like to see fewer unions based on whole sectors rather than individual jobs. However, he noted that the trend to fewer unions is already in place, with the number of TUC-affiliated unions declining from about 200 to 75 over the past couple of decades. This trend is expected to be continued, with three banking unions reporting the result of their merger ballot Staff Union and Unifi, the Barclays union, are expected to receive approval to join forces.

Commentary, page 31

Annunziata pays \$12bn for Frontier

GLOBAL CROSSING, a fledgeling US phone company with barely \$1 billion in armual sales, yesterday paid \$12.5 bil-lion (£7.7 billion) in cash and stock for Frontier, a US longdistance carrier (Andrew Butch

er writes from New York). The latest deal in the US telecoms merger revolution is the first move by Robert Annunziata, the former AT&T executive, who became chief executive of Global Crossing last month. Global Crossing is just two

years old and went public last August. Mr Annunziata said yesterday that the company was looking to buy more local phone companies. "Merging



New bank gives good account of itself

By Caroline Merrell BANKING CORRESPONDENT

STANDARD LIFE, the latest entrant to the British banking industry, said yesterday that it had received applications for £3.2 billion worth of mort-

gages since the launch of its bank at the beginning of the year. In January alone, Standard Life Bank claimed that its net share of all new UK mortgages was 30 per cent. Jim Spowart, its managing director. rumpeted: 'We have taken the market

by storm." The new bank put its success down in its low mortgage rate — currently 6.05 per cent - which is almost a point ties such as Halifax. Abbey National lower than Halifax's variable rate of 6.95 per cent.

Mr Spowart said that the bank had originally expected to have £1 billion worth of mortgages by the end of the year. The market reaction had been such that those targets have been upgraded to £2.5 billion worth of mortgages within the first year.

In the first eight weeks of business the bank said that it had completed £150 million worth of mortgages. Mr Spowart said that most of the lending was remortgage business from the high street lenders, which are dominated by the floated former building socieand Woolwich.

He said that interest had reflected Standard Life Bank's innovative "Freestyle" mortgage product, which offers daily interest calculation and no arrangement fees. although it had also been helped by competitive interest

since the January launch. If Standard Life Bank were to achieve its £2.5 billion target, this would equate to a UK market share of about 3 per cent. The bank also said that it had taken



John Garrett, the former Rank Group director, has been appointed chairman of Waterfall Holdings, fuelling speculation that the leisure group is poised to intervene in the proposed E68 million merger between European Leisure and Allied Leisure. European already has a 24 per cent stake in Waterfall.

Brixton on the up Brixton Estates, the property company that specialises in industrial estates, reported a 17.3 per cent rise in net asset value to 244p a share in the year to December 31. The company reported 1998 pre-tax profits of £40.5 million (£37.8 million). The

(9.3p) with a final 6.235p. Apax euro fund Apax Partners, the venture capital firm, has launched the first private equity investment fund denominated in euros. Apax Europe

IV has raised £1.8 billion

total dividend rises to 9.7p

(£1.2 billion) from institutional investors.

Rea shines Full-year profits at Rea Brothers, the merchant bank and financial services group, rose by 3 per cent to £3.6 million in 1998. The full-year dividend was raised to 1.75p from 1.25p.

US success highlights dangers facing Smiths

INVESTORS yesterday sliced 10 per cent off the value of Smiths Industries, the engineering group, amid fears that it now depended too heavily on the booming US aerospace industry.

The concerns were enough to overshadow an 11 per cent rise in Smiths' interim pre-tax profit to £99 million and left the stock 1064:p lower on the day at 953p.

Smiths said profit from its aerospace division leapt 42 per cent to £38 million, mainly because of high levels of civil jet

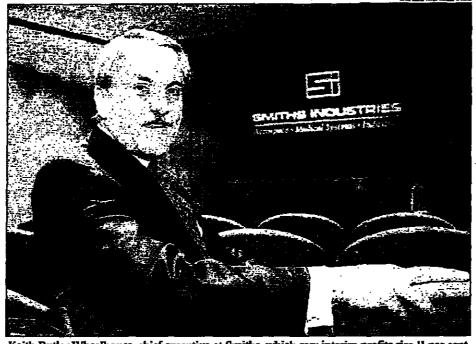
The fears about Smiths' income stream were compounded by figures showing that, for the first time, its US opera-tions accounted for half the company's profit.

Jeremy Andrews, an analyst with Greig Middleton, said: "Clearly it is a worrying issue because the other businesses are as flat as a pancake." An interim dividend of 7.4p

was declared, up from 6.75p previously. Smiths has been a market darling in recent months. with its shares running from

624p since October on the back of strong organic profit Alan Thomson, finance di-

rector, said the company be-lieved that a slowdown in civil iet production next year would



Keith Butler-Wheelhouse, chief executive at Smiths, which saw interim profits rise 11 per cent

be offset totally by increased military orders.

"These military pro-grammes will start building up very strongly and give us some very large profit growth starting in 2001," Mr Thomson said. "This will go on for as much as ten years.

He said the medical systems and industrial divisions, which contributed profits of £32.5 million and £32.2 million

respectively, were feeling the Initial integration costs preimpact of the strong exchange rate for sterling and, to a lesser vented the new businesses from contributing to the interim profit, although they are expected to add to the full-year extent, the Asian crisis. The outlook for Smiths' industrial products in the UK

and Europe remained "fairly Mr Thomson said that although Smiths' interest cover Smiths spent £88 million buying five business in the US was running at 30 times, it had no plans to make a share and UK during the period, driving net debt to £140 mil-lion from £83 million.

Renault cash may not save Nissan

FROM ROBERT WHYMANT IN TOKYO

NISSAN, the troubled Japanese car company, may yet struggle to stay afloat despite a promised £3.27 billion cash injection by France's Renault, according to car industry analysts in Tokyo.

Renault is expected to inject some Y640 billion of fresh capital into Nissan, Japan's second-largest carmaker behind Toyota, and also acquire a stake in its truck-making affili-

ate, Nissan Diesel. But even with this cash infusion, Nissan can only write-off part of its massive debts of Y2.13 trillion (£11 billion).

It is uncertain whether the proposed 35 per cent stake will give Renault enough management control to carry out urgently needed reforms and turn around Japan's ailing car giant. The alliance may also need to recruit another partner as competition intensifies in global märkets.

An official at Toyota, Nis-san's fiercest rival, said: "If Nis-san joined up with Daimler-Chrysler or Ford, that would be alarming. But the threat from a tie-up with Renault is not of the same nature."

Nissan was previously in talks with DaimlerChrysler, until the German-US carmak er, apparently deterred by the Japanese firm's debt load, ended negotiations last week.

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EXCHANGE RATES

Oil prices surge as supply cuts bite

OIL prices surged again yesterday, as exporting countries began to implement new supply

curbs agreed last week. In London, Benchmark Brent crude futures rose 64 cents to \$13.32 a barrel. Dealers said that Saudi Arabia's move to inform customers of an immediate cut in sales volumes helped to lift a market that has been sceptical of the accord struck last week in The Hague.

But Saudi Arabia, the biggest contributor to the new supply limits, yesterday led by example the campaign to convince traders that oil producers mean business.

The Saudi pledge to cut output by 585,000 barrels per day represents 34 per cent of Opec's 1.718 million contribution to the accord, which includes an additional 286,000 bpd from three non-Opec na-

Algeria was also preparing to tell its customers of immediate supply cuts and Iran pressed forward quickly with its curbs. There was no immediate sign from Libya or Nigeria of any adjustment to their

Clydeport plans fifth Scottish port

CLYDEPORT, the privatised ports operator, is to create a fifth Scottish port near Glasgow, after a year that saw tonnage through its existing ports rise by 40 per cent.

Clydeport. which operates the ports at Hunterston in Ayrshire, Glasgow and Greenock, is to create a fifth port on the former Scott Lithgow site in Port Glasgow at a cost of £50 million.

Yesterday Clydeport report-ed a 40 per cent-sise in 1998 pre-tax profits to £[1 million. The final dividend is 4.5p with total dividend per share up 17.6 per cent at 6.5p.

Police inquiry into Chelsea Village

A CRIMINAL investigation has been launched into the running of parts of Chelsea Village, the AIM-listed company that owns the Premiership foot-

The investigation is said to centre on certain business transactions by Edward Murray, who was general manager of the Court Hotel, the 160-room hotel built by Chel-sea on its Stamford Bridge site in West London, Mr Murray left the company last year. Michael Russell, Chelsea's fi-

nance director, said that the problems between the company and Mr Murray were not related to the construction delays that put back the launch of the hotel from December 1997 un-

redevelopment plans were highlighted by its chairman, Ken Bates. He said that opposition by the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham to the redevelopment of the West Stand would prove costly to the club - delays to the completion of the hotel had meant that it had a lower than expected occupancy level after its launch.

In the six months to Decem-ber 31, a near threefold rise in catering revenues helped the company to book a 25 per cent increase in turnover to £45.8 million. Despite this, pre-tax profits rose from £215,000 to only £421,000 and earnings per share from 0.12p to 0.27p. There is no dividend.

The figures brought a sharp Chelsea's problems with its ended at 79%p, down 5%p.

Hepworth to play part in mergers

HEPWORTH, the building products company, committed it-self yesterday to playing an "active role" in a spate of mergers and acquisitions that it predicts will punctuate its industry over the coming months. Jean-François Chêne, chief executive, said that Hepworth would focus on its hearing and pipe-

making activities. Yesterday Hepworth posted a 17 per cent increase in operat-ing profit to £60.4 million for 1998. The shine was taken off the results, however, when the company issued a warning about trading. "The first two months of 1999 have shown weaker than expected demand. January was poor," said M Chêne. Pre-tax profits were £64.5 million, against losses of £11.7 million last time. The pre-tax profits picture was distorted by a raft of exceptional costs incurred in 1997. The rise in underlying profitability came about as Hepworth cut operating costs. There was only a small change in annual sales. The final dividend is 6.25p, compared with 6p, which makes a to-tal for the year of 9.25p (9p). Tempus, page 32

Toad leaps into profit

TOAD, the car security company backed by Noel Edmonds, the television presenter, and Chris Evans, the biotech entrepreneur. yesterday reported its first profit since its incorporation in 1993. The company reported pre-tax profits of £432,000 for the 38 weeks to December 22, compared with losses of £2.6 million for the year ended March 31, 1998. Boosted by acquisitions, sales were £25 million (£9.6 million). Previous losses per share of 9.46p turned into earnings of 0.76p. The shares rose 2p to 21%p.

Shield-Axis deal

SHIELD DIAGNOSTICS moved closer to becoming a world leader in the detection of heart diseases when it finally agreed a merger with Axis Biochemicals, its Norwegian rival. Talks began in January but the marriage was delayed after two large Axis shareholders rejected the terms. Revised terms, announced yesterday, will give Axis shareholders 45.6 per cent of the new group and Shield 54.4 per cent. The original split had been 38 to 62 per cent in Shield's favour.

Schawk raises offer

THE auction for Wace, the printing group, hotted up yester-day when Schawk, the US bidder, was forced to raise its offer after the emergence last week of a US counterbidder. Schawk said that it was raising its offer to 80p a share, valuing Wace at £63.3 million. This is up from from its original offer of 72p a share, which had been trumped by an offer from Applied Graphics Technologies of 74p a share. Yesterday AGT said in turn that it is "actively considering increasing its offer".

Midshires record

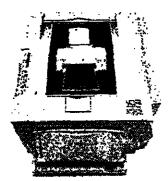
BIRMINGHAM MIDSHIRES, the building society being absorbed by the Halifax next month, enjoyed a record year in 1998. Midshires, which is distributing £750 million to its members as part of the sale, saw pre-tax profits before exceptionals rise 11 per cent to £88.4 million. Mortgage advances jumped 36 per cent to £1.28 billion. The society attracted 60,000 new savers and saw balances grow £591.5 million to £5.9 billion. Total income rose to £202 million, up 10.3 per cent.

Regent plans control

REGENT INNS, the pub operator that is in merger talks with SFI Group, is planning to acquire a controlling stake in its Bar Risa/Jongleurs joint venture. It owns 49 per cent of the business, which has six units. In the half year to January 2, Regent's pre-tax profits dived from £9 million to £6.4 million. Although earnings per share dipped to 6.1p (9.2p), the interim dividend is up 10 per cent to 1.43p. Like-for-like sales in the

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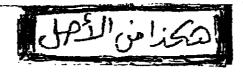
> PD A Sutch Chairman, Swire Pacific Limited Hong Kong, 12th March 1999

	1998	1997	Change
Profit attributable to shareholders	US\$226M	US\$856M	-73.6%
Investment property portfolio	US\$7,168M	US\$10,531M	-31_9%
Net assets per share	US\$5.13	US\$7.56	-32.1%
Earnings per share	US¢14.6	US\$54.4	-73.2%
Dividends per share	US¢10.8	US\$22.7	-52.5%

1. Amounts per share refer to 'A' shares. Entitlements of 'B' shareholders are in proportion 1 to 5 compared

All the above figures have been translated from Hong Kong dollars into United States dollars at an exchange rate of US\$1 = HK\$7.80.

Dividends are declared in Hong Kong dollars.



o, this was not Michael Foot of the wild hair, gesticulating arms and donkey jacket. The Michael Foot who yesterday made a statement guaranteed to frighten the children was the quiet, sensible, former Bank of England chap. This Michael Foot knows what he is talking about and if he chooses to warn that household names in the financial services business may have to be shut down because they will not be prepared to cope with the millennium bug, then it is time

to take notice. It may be that his statement was intended only to scare the financiers rather than their customers. If you are a regulator who fears that one or two of your flock may not be taking the bug seriously enough, then a public warning on this scale might be a way of making them take notice. Preparing for the introduction of the euro certainly became something of a distraction for some banks in the last few months of last year and their preparations for the dawning of 2000 may have slowed as a result. Perhaps Mr Foot fears thay have not yet

got back to speed. But he is in a position to convey his thoughts quietly, if firmly, to those who are giving him cause for concern. That he made his remarks publicly yesterday, at a conference on the bug, was destined to cause fear far beyond the Square Mile.

The public is already nervous of the possible effects of the bug and will inevitably be more so

Foot frightens the children

when it hears the reasonable Mr Foot warning that unnnamed, but well known, institutions may be unnable to cope.

People are already beginning to stock pile food. In anticipation of huge demand, supermarkets are already taking on additional warehouse space to accommodate the extra rations that they anticipate they will be able to sell in the run up to the end of the year. Banks have been fearful of the same attitudes being translated into a run on cash.

They have pondered whether it would be wise to write to customers assuring them that there is no need to fear, their money will be safe as the centuries change. Yet that sort of comfort letter can have exactly the opposite effect to that intended, alerting customers to a potential risk that they had not previously taken seriously. Mr Foot's words cannot be dis-

missed. British banks have been patting themselves on the back for assimilating the new curren-cy with barely a hitch. But sophisticated banking businesses deal in foreign currencies all the time and should have been able to one with the advent of a new one. The problems posed by the bug are different and deeper-seated. And the growth in the financial services industry means that there are many companies now



COMMENTARY by our City Editor

looking after people's savings which are relatively young and unsophisticated. They may need more than dire warnings from Mr Foot to deal with the problems. Even for those banks that have their own house in order, there is a high risk that counterparties will not be ready to play properly when the new year dawns. The next edict from Mr Foot will surely be to cancel Christmas for bankers.

Kingfisher blue? No, thanks to Mulcahy

s it a bird? Is it a plane? No, it's a retailer. Ten years after changing its name to King-fisher, the stores group is still striving to find a neat explanation for itself. Yesterday, it opted for "the European home and family retailer", which should result in a visit from the trading standards officer, since homes and families are not available from any of the group's 2,742 outlets. . Kingfisher remains a collec-

tion of largely unrelated businesses, ranging from Europe's biggest DIY company to the recently acquired Electric City, which has seven stores in Singapore and is suffering from a consumer power cut.

Together, they have enabled Sir Geoffrey Mulcahy to deliver a remarkable set of figures. To squeeze profits growth of more than 15 per cent out of retailing in these fightfisted times is an achievement that few of his rivals will equal. It even excuses him for announcing that Kingfisher's ambition is to "deliver an unbeatable shopping experience based on outstanding value, choice and service". Well, per-haps in China, where it will open in June, a visit to B&Q really will amount to an unbeatable shop-

ping experience. The international expansion is remarkable. Kingfisher is now a truly European operator and stretching further afield. Yet the operating businesses remain seperate. Now, with Big W, there is to be an attempt to find some

synergy across the group. The experimental store, on the edge of Edinburgh, will incorporate merchandise from the various chains, ranging from Comet's electrical goods to Superdrug's specialities. It may end up recalling the bazaar heritage of the

original Woolworth. But apart from the single experimental Big W, there is but one element that links the various Kingfisher businesses. It is Sir Geoff himself. The phenomenal-ly hands-on chief executive has led the group through its difficult times and proved that his board was right to back him in the pow er struggle with Alan Smith in 1995. Mr Smith's achievements as chairman of Storehouse are no match for Mulcahy.

Yet at some stage even Sir Geoff may feel the need to quit his Marviebone office. Who would succeed him is a mystery. Roger Holmes, the former finance director of B&Q, who is now running Woolworth is said to be making an impression. He hails from Sir Geoff's favourite consulting firm,

McKinsey, as did former King-fisher finance director, Archie Norman, of Asda.

Sir Geoff and Archie still talk. Do not rule out a deal between them. That would enable Archie to move on and Sir Geoff to solve his succession problem with Asda's Allan Leighton.

Hammering home the point at Wickes

while B&Q has been ven-turing into far-flung places, its rival Wickes has been concentrating on the home market Earlier this month, it reported a profit of al-most £25 million for last year, a distinct home improvement on the previous year's glaring red

Bill Grimsey has rebuilt the

business after the extraordinary accounting scandal that threatened the collapse of the company two-and-a-half years ago. It is now strong enough to be plan-ning to spend £48 million this year on refurbishing existing stores and adding a few new ones. But while Mr Grimsey is looking to the future, there are still some who are looking to the past. In particular, the Serious Fraud

Office, which has been investigat-

just an illusion. The complicated double accounting systems that were oper-

ing what went on in the company

to allow reported profits to be

ated within the company, with the help of stacks of their suppliers, took teams of forensic accountants to dissect. As the process went on, the former chairman, Henry Sweetbaum, and one time finance director Trefor Llewellyn, were prevailed upon to repay substantial bonuses that the inflated profit figures had generated for them.

There may be more cash to flow back into Wickes's coffers as a few other bonuses have, apparently, still to be reclaimed from non-deservers. And the SFO has not given up on the idea of nailing the culprits in this DIY case. It could a long trial.

Bigger the better

JOHN MONKS would like to see fewer trade unions. Instead. he would like bigger, more pow-erful ones. The thought will not thrill those in business who fear the consequences of the imminent legislation that will enshrine the right to trade union recognition. But Mr Monks's message is as relevant to those on the other side of the business equation as to the unions. There are far too many organisations representing business interests, and collecting chunky subscriptions. The time is right for rationalisation among these as well as the unions.

Setback for **Premier**

PREMIER FARNELL, the electronics distributor, warned its long-suffering shareholders yesterday that market conditions would not improve this year and that a significant turnround in profit was up to

three years away.
John Hirst, chief executive. made the frank assessment of Premier's plight after revealing that pre-tax profits fell 28 per cent to £100.4 million in the year to January 31.

The figures included net exceptional losses of £10 million stemming mainly from expenditure on computer systems which do not meet the company's demands

The result was widely expected and Premier shares lost just 2p to 192p. But the stock has been more than halved in the

Mr Hirst said Premier had "stabilised" its US operations towards the end of the year after a poor performance in the

This was blamed on the decision in 1997 to sell products for no less than the published pri-

had been reintroduced and sales were recovering. damaged by the impact of the

Mr Hirst said it would take

ther £20 million to upgrade

Farnell By Paul Armstrong

ces, ending negotiations with customers. But he said some flexibility

Premier's profit was also strong pound on many of its industrial customers.

until 2001 for the company to recover the £15 million a year it was investing in marketing and other measures designed to lift sales.

Premier has also allowed £25 million to integrate its systems after a period of poor technology planning and a furlogistics and service capability.

There are few business turnrounds that have very sharp corners," Mr Hirst said. This year we will start to see small signs of improvement but we are talking two or three years for a significant turn-

A final dividend of 5p was declared, making 9p for the year, compared with 12.9p

M-R Group in takeover discussions

By CHRIS AYRES

M-R GROUP, the data storage and retrieval group formerly called Microfilm Reprographics, yesterday admitted it was in takeover talks. thought to be with a large out-

sourcing group. The company - which has undergone a restructuring to move away from microfilm and microfiche and concentrate instead on managing high-tech electronic databases said talks were "at an early

M-R Group, headed by Colin Haylock, has won a number of contracts from telephone companies, such as Vodafone. and Cable & Wireless, which need to maintain large databases of customer information.

Analysts vesterday speculated that the offer could have come from a US outsourcing company wanting to get into the lucrative British data storage market. Shares of M-R Group rose 20p yesterday to 138p, up from year low of

Breweries sale hard to Swallow

By Dominic Walsh

THE sale of Swallow Group's Vaux Breweries arm to a management buyout team was on the verge of collapse last night after negotiations between the two sides reached an impasse. Alchemy Partners, the MBO team's venture capital backers, and the Swallow sale

committee are believed to have fallen out over several issues, notably that of beer sup-Negotiations were

helped by the sacking last month of Martin Grant, the group's chief executive, and Neal Gossage, the finance director, after they secretly put forward an alternative proposal to investors. The two men were unhappy that Frank Nicholson, the head of the MBO team, is brother to Sir Paul Nicholson, the Swallow chair-

The deal's collapse is likely to force Swallow to close its two breweries and retain the bulk of the 350 pubs involved. Swallow shares fell 7p 274p.

in orders for finished sausages

Third profits warning squeezes Devro shares

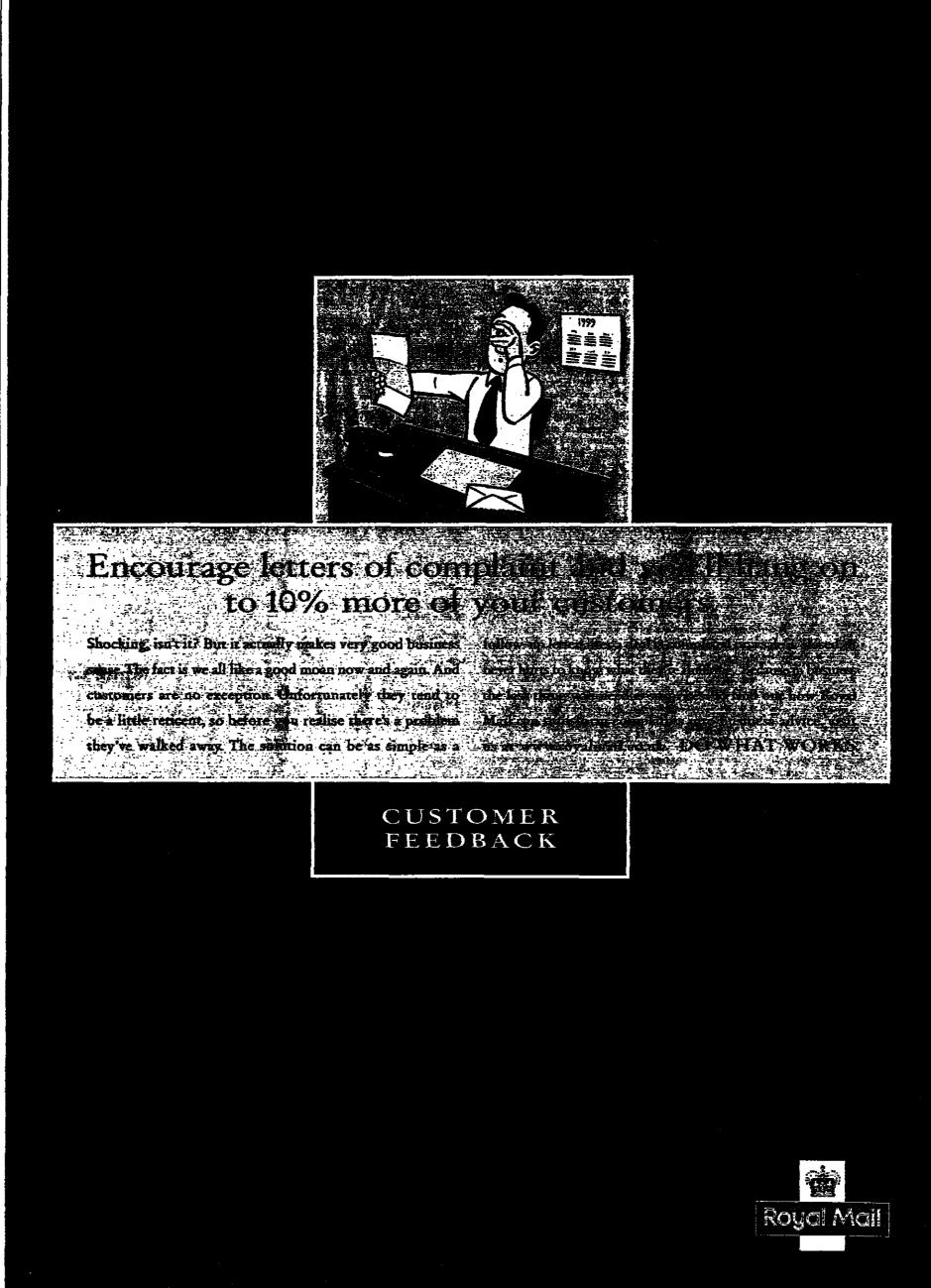
By Fraser Nelson

DEVRO shares fell a further 40p to 1431:p yesterday after the world's largest sausage-skin maker issued its third profits warning (Fraser Nelson writes). The company, whose shares

from Devro's US factories. Pre-tax profits fell to £36.1 million (£58 million) for 1998 slightly below the level indicated at its November warning. Earnings were 14.4p (23.6p)

peaked at 545p last year, per share; the dividend is held blamed a sharp decline in deat 9.5p. Analysts marked down full-year estimates to mand for sausages in Russia, Eastern Europe and the Far £33 million (£39 million). East, whose emerging markets have been blighted by econom-crisis. This had caused a fall

Tempus, page 32



STOCK MARKET



Investors cautious as witching hour nears

JUST when investors thought the stock market was the safest place to invest their money. along comes a warning telling

them to steer clear. NatWest Stockbrokers is telling clients that the advent of the so-called "double witching" hour in London tomorrow, marking the expiry of the FTSE 100 index futures and the index options, with "triple witching" in the US to follow later in the day, could wreak havoc with their portfolios.

Richard Hunter, head trader at NatWest, says the witching hour is characterised by high levels of trading activity and unpredictable price movements. His advice for clients who have to trade is to use a price limit on their transactions and monitor the spread and volatility of the stock they wish to trade in.

The best advice, he adds, is to stand back altogether.

Opening losses on Wall Street after its record-breaking run earlier this week, which saw it breach the 10,000 level. rounded off a depressing session in London yesterday.

Profit-taking saw prices lose ground from the outset although they closed above their worst levels. The FTSE 100 index finished 61.3 down at 6.140.6, while the FTSE 250 index shed 34.4 at 5,485.3. The total number of shares traded just topped the billion mark.

Allied Domecq retreated 141/2p to 468p ahead of a presentation for brokers and fund managers arranged by War-burg Dillon Read, the broker. Bass was a notable faller

among the top 100 companies. losing 291/p at 9021/p. The Czech equivalent of the Monopolies and Mergers Commission has allowed Pilsner Urquell and Radegast breweries to merge. Both are already owned by Nomura, the Japanese securities house, which also happens to be Britain's largest pub chain owner. The merger will nose a big threat to Bass's own Czech brewing arm.

Shares of Litho Supplies shot up 164p to 135p yesterday on news that the management is poised to stage a buyout at the 145p level. This is presumably the same management that issued a profits warning back in December. It also said that were set to continue. The price has collapsed from a peak of 2321/p last April.

There was some useful turn-



Jonathan Lees, left, DCS finance director, and Tim Robinson saw the firm's shares surge after announcing better profits

over recorded in Staveley Industries, 1/2 p firmer at 731/2 p as 202,112 shares were traded in a thin market. Sir Ron Brierley. the New Zealand financier. continues to hold a 15.8 per cent stake through his Guinness Peat Group and hopes are high he may launch a bid for the outstanding shares.

City speculators are con-vinced that another round of

consolidation will take off soon in the chemical sector. Aibright & Wilson, 2p better at 150p, has just received a bid from Rhodia, the French group, to counter an earlier one from Albernarie of the US. But other deals appear to be in the pipeline. Brent International, 142p easier at 105p, has seen its price rally strongly from a low of 71p in Decem-

Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar

MANCHESTER United scored an own goal with the shares falling 21p to 219p. It follows an uncon-firmed report that the Monopolies and Mergers Com-mission has blocked its proposed takeover by BSkyB, 40 per cent owned by News International, owner of The Times, as being against the public interest.

Word is that the MMC is worried that the Premiertip-off the satellite broad-caster whenever a bigger offer emerged for the Premier

Other football clubs saw their share prices suffer as a result of the speculation. Aston Villa fell 17½p to 540p, Heart of Midlothian 2p to 65½p, Leeds Sporting 2kp to 2lkp. Leicester City 11/2p to 40p, Newcastle Unit-

Hotspur 3p to 83p and Sunderland 2½p to 575p. Stephen Byers, Secretary of State for Trade and Inthe MMC report and must reach a decision over the next couple of weeks.

927: 528 5647: 503 by partes

ed 5p to 90p, Tottenham

ber. Scapa Group, 1%p lighter at 113%p, is also seen as vulnerable, having fallen from a peak of 220½p last year.

Oliver Group firmed lp to 14kp on talk of a bid from rival Stead & Simpson. Oliver has seen its price drop from a peak of 2814p last year. Sir Colin Chandler, chair-

man of Vickers, has taken advantage of the recent weakness in the share price to add to his holding. He has picked up 10,000 shares at 149p, stretching his holding to 86,928. The price fell 34:p to 1454:p. There was a warm response

to final results from DCS Group, up 24p at 6921/p. Profits grew from £4.9 million to E7.5 million and the IT group, headed by Tim Robinson, chief executive, is bullish about prospects.
Shares of Full Circle Indus-

tries were suspended at 14p pending clarification of its financial position. Revelation Piccadilly was also suspended at 14p pending clarification of its financial position.

AIM-listed Voss jumped 174:p to 1124:p. The company says it knows of no reason for the rise. Internet Technology fell 5p to 150p as Oliver Vaughan, a non-executive director, continued to unload shares. He has now sold 20,000 shares at 152p, in addition to the 30,000 he disposed of earlier this week.

Prestwick Holdings fell 3p to 141/2p. It says it has not received any bid approaches and continues to generate operating losses.

GILT-EDGED: Bond prices saw gains stretched to more than £1 after taking their lead from a late rally by US treas-ury bonds overnight. The drop in the average earnings numbers boosted sentiment and the publication of the minutes of the last Monetary Policy Committee showed that the door had not been closed on further rate cuts.

In the futures pit, the June series of the long gilt rose 46p to £117.68 as a total of 29,000 contracts were completed. Among conventional issues, benchmark Treasury 8 per cent 2021 put on £1.18 at £148.16; in shorts Treasury 7 per cent 2002 was 20p dearer at £106.80. ☐ NEW YORK: Shares were lower in the morning session

er assault on the 10,000 level. By midday the Dow Jones industrial average was down 50.23 at 9.880.24.

New York (midday): Dow Jones9890.24 (-50.23) S&P Compose1294.41 (-11.97)
Tokyo: 16268.11 (+ 195.29)
Hong Kong: Hang Seng
Anisterdani: AEX into538.97 (-0.67)
Sydney: 2977.8 (-14.4)
Franklint:
Singapore: Stats1470.16 (-19.38)
Brussels: 89.203342.52 (-5.72)
Paris: CAC-404170.01 (-16.34)
Zerick: S&I lose:7231.8 (+12.9)
Lendon: FT 3037245 (-53.5)
FT 30 3724.5 (-53.5) FTSE 100 5745.5 (-51.3) FTSE 250 5465.3 (-34.4) FTSE 250 2828.9 (-27.6)
FTSE Eurotop 100

__________1.6297 (+0.0055) _______0.6755 (+0.0040) _102.4 (-0.4) Bank on England official close (4pm) RP1 _______163.4 Jan (2.4%) Jan 1987 = 100 RPX ______161.8 Jan (2.6%) Jan 1987 = 100

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Military manoeuvres

Moreover, the construction

cost of those installations put

up barriers of entry to poten-

tial competitors, and protect-

Now, the story has changed. Now it is all about

Asian markets, about profits

reorganisation programme

Devro has embarked on a

warnings and job losses.

SKINNED

ed Devro's profit margins.

DESPITE reporting an 11 per cent rise in inter-im pre-tax profits yesterday, the Jeremiahs dominated talk over the future of Smiths Industries. Smiths shares were the worst-performing of the FTSE 100 yesterday, shedding more than £1, and more than 10 per cent, onthe day. Part of the cause was straightforward profit-taking. The stock has had an exceptional run: before yesterday the shares had risen 72 per cent since October.

But the outlook for the US aerospace industry is worrying observers. Smiths boasted that earnings from aerospace sales had jumped 42 per cent and that the division now accounts for 37 per cent of its operating profits. But civil jet production, which has fuelled the growth,

is set to fall sharply.

Smiths, not entirely convincingly, argues that military orders will replace the civil slow-

down. It will have to, for Smiths medical systems and industrial products divisions are unlikely to provide the sort of growth needed to

compensate for fewer civil jets being made Yet while legitimate short-term concerns circulate, Smiths' longer-term prospects remain bright. Its management is strong, it has an impressive record on acquisitions, and it possesses the firepower to continue buying. Interest cover sits at 30 times and good opportunities remain in developing medical gadgetry, albeit

at racy prices.
At 953p. Smiths shares traded yesterday on a prospective earnings multiple of about 18. That is no bargain and the stock may get stuck in a holding pattern until confidence in its main aerospace markets returns. But current price weakness gives a chance to buy the stock which is well worth holding for the long term.

dire Russian and South-East ficient producer, questions

but details remain sketchy. In-

vestors are assured that the

good times will return but

heavy asset writedowns and

redundancy charges seem in-evitable. And since Devro has

always paraded itself as an ef-

must be raised about where

genuine and sustainable cost

500

savings will come from.

Keep seiling.

Devro

SINCE Devro's directors sold shares in March last year at 488p, investors in this sausage skin manufacturer have endured a quite shocking price plunge. The price closed down another 22 per cent on the day yesterday.

Getting Devro back on its

feet presents a tough task, requiring expert leadership. So far, however, Devro's directors have proved themselves more adept at enjoying and benefiting from the upside than managing crisis and reformation.

For so much of its life Devro, floated at 170p in 1993, was hailed as a safety stock. Its collagen and cellulose product used for sausage skins was meant to be immune from normal fluctuations in food prices. The quality of Devro's factories was supposed to make it the slickest producer.

Hepworth

HEPWORTH remains a grim old company, despite the laudable exertions of Jean-François Chène, chief executive of Hepworth since 1997. In the context of the build-

ing materials industry, which in many ways is the archetypal uphill battle, yesterday was one of Hepworth's better days. The stock market magnanimously ignored worries about trading to mark the shares up 4 per cent. Behind the optimism was the apparent proof in the annual resuits that M Chêne's cost-cutting crusade is working. Not only does Hepworth look a much leaner beast, it also seems likely that it will become leaner still.

But the harsh realities of building materials means there is no realistic hope that the market will grow - in the rope at least. Moreover, buildsuch as Hepworth have precious little power over prices. Competition is too keen and capacity too high.

1995

1994

Hepworth has disappointed enough in the past to put investors off for ever. From here it makes sense as an investment if costs are continually cut, and if Hepworth acquires. Consolidation of developed markets must come. Developing markets expo-sure would present exciting. if dangerous, growth opportunities. Or Hepworth could be bid for. At best, hold.

Chelsea Village

SHARES in Chelsea Village, owner of the West London football team, lost 6½ per cent of their value yesterday. Evaporating bid hopes hit the whole football sector, as unconfirmed reports circulated that BSkyB's purchase of Manchester United was about to

With Ken Bates, Chelsea

a bid was always an outside bet. But interim results from Chelsea added ammunition-

1997

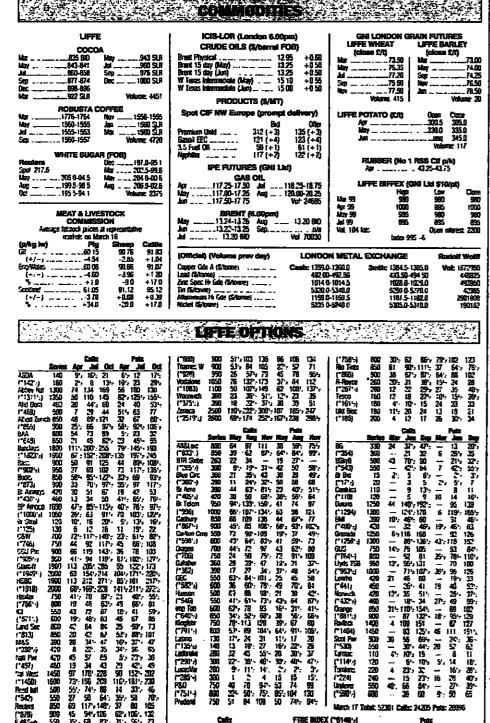
to its doubters.

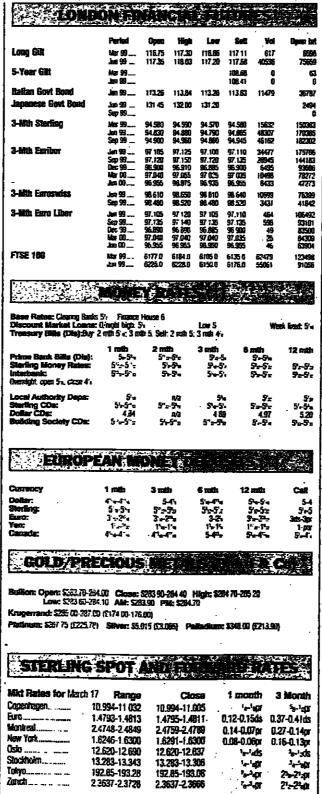
Although the figures were more informative than in the past about where the company generates its turnover, no segmental profits detail was given. But at a rough guess the travel agency Chelsea owns made a loss. The new hotel is unlikely to have turned in a profit, not least because it had a nasty falling out with the general manager. It would appear that the footballing activities did make some money in the period; although probably only because Brian

Laudrup, a superstar with a salary to match, walked out at the beginning of the season saving the club from forking out for his wages. Fans of the Blues will want

to hold these shares for sentimental reasons. Harderinvestors should

EDITED BY ROBERT COLE





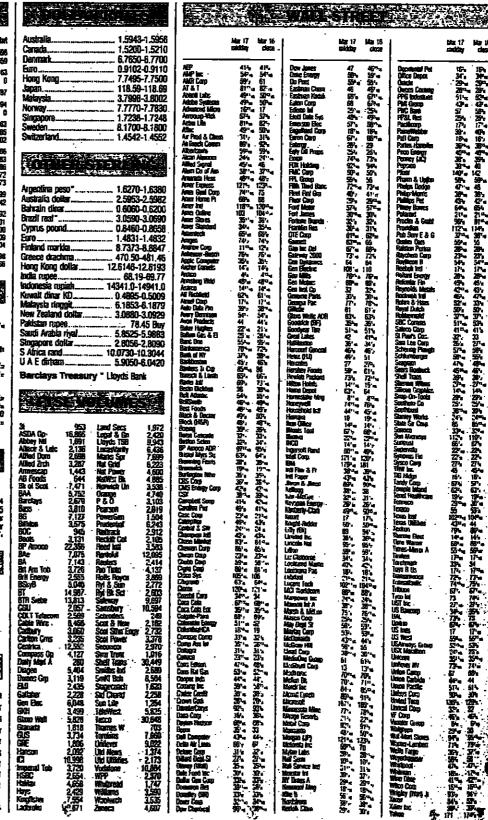
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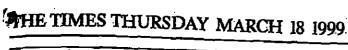
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REGINA

Nostalis)



acques Santer's European Commission may have been a disaster. The timing of its demise was great. Much of the way the EU operates and what it should do are up for grabs anyway as part of a package called Agenda 2000, which aims to keep the EU manageable when it enlarges to

the East, supposedly in 2002.

Alongside the affluent burghers of Brussels would be the aspiring escapees from Communism in Poland, Hungary, the Czech Repub-lic, Estonia and Slovenia, a rare vision that unites europhiles and europhobes. Together, the newcorners add up to a country more populous than France, Italy or the UK but with about a third of the

income per head.
In Poland, by far the biggest of the next wave of entrants, about a fifth of families depend on farming for a living, ten times the EU average. Farm support already accounts for about 43 per cent of EU spending, even more than the structural funds used to help to lift up poorer members and regions. The impact of bringing in the

Blair's chance to reform EU budget

former East Germany can be seen in dole queues round euroland. Averagely affluent Ireland has been getting a net 5 per cent boost to output from the Community. So enlargement is going to cost a packet. Unless, that is, the common agricultural policy is clipped and the powers of members states are sheared, especially the little ones.

The Amsterdam Treaty started watering down members' influence in the Council of Ministers. The number of EU Commissioners and whether every member should have one are to come.

Germany, the current hig-hitting, big-paying EU president, set itself to reform the budget before it hands over to newcomer Finland at the end of June. The debate is equally about how much Jacques Santer's successor has to spend and who supplies the funds. A start was made on spending.

by cutting support prices under the CAP, although any net cuts depend on compensation, which has yet to be agreed. Then the German plan was hit for six by events. Instead of piping their way round Eu-rope's capitals to sell Agenda 2000, German ministers are trying to arrange a new EU government.

Member states were already sus-picious enough to limit EU spending to 1.27 per cent of output. After the latest revelations, few will volunteer more. Germany and The Netherlands, which contribute a far higher proportion of national income than anyone else, want cuts. Yet resigning Commissioners claimed that things had gone wrong because they were asked to do too much with too little.

Agenda 2000 says the EU should just be able to manage if growth is high enough. But that may not allow for the impact of the



euro and the need to help out poorer regions of euroland through a "Cohesion Fund" if things go wrong there. Deepening the union is as expensive as widening it.
One answer is for the EU to do

less; to cut the number of programmes it funds. The new lot should have a full-time Commissioner for Subsidiarity, searching

out things that could be done by member states if they want to. Richer countries could support their own poorer regions. Another answer is to get incentives right. Usually the EU sets subsidies, but schemes are run locally. Each nation has an incentive to dream up as many projects or citizens as it can, who might fiddle some cash.

Offering aid to poor regions in rich countries was, however, a sop to members who contributed most but got little from the CAP. Britain negotiated its rebate instead. If fringe spending programmes are to be axed, then so must be the present system for funding the EU. Charles Jenkins suggests how in Paying for an Enlarged Euro-pean Union, a pamphlet for the Federal Trust (Kogan Page, £10).

For the tax system to be fair. wealthier nations should expect to pay more per head both absolutely

and relatively. But net contribu-tions should be the same for equally wealthy countries. That means France and Italy, which benefit hugely from EU spending, should pay more up front to compensate. In effect, the principle behind the UK rebate should apply to all. France and Italy are unlikely to

agree to this. But Britain is for once in the driving seat. To achieve any worthwhile reform of EU funding, and therefore any large scale reform of EU spending, the UK would have to give up its rebate. Even on favourable assump-

tions, this could raise our contribution by a third. It sounds politically impossible. But this lever gives Tony Blair the chance to push through the much-wider EU reforms he professes to champion and which would alone put Britain "at the heart of Europe".

spending is top of the agenda and vital for enlargement. But it can only be the start. As apologists rightly point out, EU spending is tiny relative to state or even local government spending. Far bigger that Brussels directives and regulations impose on us. UK consumers spend £2 billion a year extra on water and sewerage, for instance, to fulfil EU prescriptions. And you may have noticed the epidemic of bridge repairs that are slowing goods and people all round the country. Again it ultimately comes from Brussels.

The formation of these directives needs far greater scrutiny from the EU parliament before they are enacted. And that scrutiny is unlikely to add much unless MEPs are part of the elected domestic parliament, in our case the House of Lords perhaps. Most of all, EU rules need to be made more flexible by ensuring that all directives automatically lanse after, say, ten years,

The UK rebate could be the lever for change, but only if Mr Blair is prepared to take a political risk.

OFT wants motorists to drive a hard bargain for a new car

Adam Jones

finds out why

regulators are taking

another look in

the showrooms

veryone knows that disconcerting feeling of overtaking a car on a motorway, only to encounter what appears to be the very same vehicle a few miles down the road. A tingling sense of deja vu, coupled with a creeping suspicion that things aren't quite what they seem.

Yesterday's events in the car industry prompted a similar sensation. The Office of Fair Trading - the agency that is being entrusted with more and more power as the Government becomes more and pore militant on consumer Issues - decided that UK car

In Britain, we pay up to 60 per cent more for new cars than in other European Union countries such as Spain and France. The OFT said this is because carmakers and dealers are distorting competition and not just because of the strong pound. The OFT highlighted the fact that dealers are denied the bulk discounts that. could lead to lower prices for

John Bridgeman, the Director-General of Fair Trading. vesterday referred the matter to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission for a further inquisition. The show of strength by Mr Bridgeman came after a committee of MPs claimed that the OFT was "too feeble" in its existing form to pursue suspected market abuses in the car industry. Clearly Mr Bridgman believes that, even with the ex-



Arthur Daley epitomised dodgy dealers but pricing practices are proving a bigger threat to their reputation at present

panded powers being banded to him by the Department of Trade and Industry, he does not have enough teeth to hurt the people responsible for this

Guilty or not, carmakers and dealers face a further nine months of bureaucratic grind while the MMC conducts its investigation.

But hang on a minute, haven't we seen something like this before? In 1990 the OFT referred the car industry to the MMC over pricing issues. The MMC reported back in 1992. To the fury of consumer lobbyists, it pretty much absolved carmakers of abusing their exclusive relationships with dealers to keep prices artificially high. It did make several recommendations to try to foster more competition. Carmakers were to allow their franchised dealers to sell other brands, subject to a few commonsense

They were also to let dealers advertise more freely, encroaching on another franchised rival's turf if they so wished, fostering "intra-brand" competition. Dealers were also to be allowed to engage in related busi-

limitations.

ness, such as car hire, secondhand car sales or general servicing, without having to fear the disapproval of their most

important supplier. These measures were included in European legislation in 1995 and came into force in 1996. So why is the matter being re-examined by the MMC iust three years later?

The OFT says it referred the matter to its more muscular "big brother" for a second time simply because the previous measures did not work. Car dealers are still too much in thrall to the manufacturers. An

OFT official said yesterday: The measures didn't change the balance of power."

Alan Pulham, the director of the National Franchise Dealers' Association, which represents those dealers whose fates are most intimately tied to the carmakers' whims, has an alternative explanation. Yes, the first MMC report led to greater freedom for dealers, he says but on paper only.
 He says franchised dealers.

who have about £1 million to £2 million invested in their premises, are too scared to antagonise their supplier by diversifying into other car marques and increasing competition.

He claims that those who are

bold enough to make such a suggestion are soon "persuaded" otherwise: "There is still same evidence of coercion."

The Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders denies that dealers are leant on, saying the risk of being fined up to 10 per cent of turnover is too great. Volkswagen is the only big name to have been pun-ished for dealer abuse.

However, the OFT found that the bonus systems set up by carmakers to reward dealers are often designed to stop them selling outside their designated area.

The OFT believes that the MMC might be bolder in its findings this time because of the pioneering stance it took on the sale of electrical products. The MMC has banned the use of recommended resale prices (RRPs) — where the manufacturer dictates the high street or showroom price charged by the distributor — for TVs and videos and other white goods. The ban came into force last September. RRPs are also found in the car industry. The MMC. having established a

thinking goes.
A tough MMC investigation will also strengthen the UK's call for the abolition of the block exemption from Euro-pean competition rules that the car industry's exclusive distribution arrangements currently enjoy. The exemption is due to be reconsidered next year.

precedent, may bite again, the

Car dealers have certainly changed since the last MMC ruling in 1992. Their anorexic profit margins have led to widespread consolidation. But the relationship is still as symbiotic as ever.

The mass manufacturers are awarding fewer franchises covering larger areas. The increasthem to continue to be tough with their dealers, who struggle along with pre-tax profit margins of about 1 to 2 per cent.

The trading relationship is getting even closer in some cases. Ford formed a joint venture to buy Dagenham Motors, the biggest dedicated sales channel for its vehicles, for less than £29 million this year.

against a referral to the MMC now is that the UK car buyer will soon benefit from a loosening on the sale of Japanese cars in this country. Japanese imports are limited to just 11 per cent of the total car market at the moment. This constraint will be abolished at the start of next year.

There is also the risk that the car industry, which is already facing big challenges through overcapacity and faltering economic growth, is being swamped with paperwork and compliance requirements.

Since 1990, it has had to comply with an MMC inquiry, a European Commission study and the latest OFT probe. Now it faces more MMC paperwork, yet another round of European Commission submissions before any renewal of the hlock exemption, plus a related grilling from the Department of Trade and Industry.

The OFT complained yester day that carmakers and dealers had been slow and uncooperative during the most re-cent inquiry. If the issue of overpriced cars did not arouse such strong emotions, the public might feel that the industry foot-dragging was justified.

Enterprising attempt to integrate rival software

most large corporaof millions of pounds installing hugely complex software sys-tems that link all their departments together. These systems are made possible by enterprise resource planning (ERP) software packages, produced by companies such as Germa-ny's SAP and US companies, such as SSA and PeopleSoft.

Indeed, the market for ERP software - which allows companies to automate many of their operations, and perform quick and efficient analysis of all aspects of their businesses is estimated to be worth £40 billion. However, over the past few months, it has become clear that companies which use ERP software are facing serious challenges.

One problem is the millennium bug. Because ERP softyear to install, and are usually used for more than five years before being replaced, many companies are wary of buying new products before 2000.

This is because companies want to make sure that their software systems can survive the millennium bug before trying to upgrade them. However, with e-commerce catching on, companies risk being left behind by delaying upgrades.

The exploding popularity of e-commerce can lead to other problems: often, ERP software packages cannot be adapted quickly enough to fit new circumstances. This means that a business has to re-engineer the way one of its departments works to get around a relatively simple problem. These issues have affected most users of ERP systems, and the companies that produce ERP software have seen their shares hit hard. However, SSA, one of the industry's smaller players believes it has come up with a way to tack-

le these problems. SSA's strategy is to allow its





ERP products to work with software packages produced by rivals. The company has also invented a set of software tools that allows software produced by rivals to be "seemlessly integrated" into its own systems. It may seem like an obvious solution, but it is a big step forward for the ERP industry, which has previously prided itself on developing complex proprietary soft-

As an SSA spokesman said: will enable companies to get their software systems up and running quickly, and then to modify and extend business processes to gain competitive

SSA may have had to adopt such a strategy out of financial necessity - its research and develooment budget is almost cripplingly limited. However. if interoperability becomes standard, it would benefit customers not only of SSA, but of

☐ EIGHTY-FIVE per cent of company directors believe that e-mail is encouraging the circulation of "inappropriate" and often scandalous material, according to a survey by Integralis, the computer security company, out this week. The survey goes on to say that 15 per cent of directors have had to discipline employees for inappropriate use of the Internet, while 22 per cent of directors have disciplined employees for using e-mail to gossip with friends and colleagues.

□ COMPANIES from the music, software, film and television industries in Hong Kong staged a demonstration against copyright theft yesterday. The protest, which attracted internaional movie stars such as Jackie Chan, pictured left, involved dosing cinemas, staging an "anti-piracy" march and cancelling music broadcasts. It is estimated that copyright theft costs media companies billions of pounds every year, with the Internet threatening to make the

CHRIS AYRES

Hey, Jude

JUDITH MAYHEW, the feisty head of the Corporation of London's Policy and Resources Committee and so the City's chief executive, is in trouble again. Mayhew put her name to Britain in Europe, the new pro-euro pressure group founded by Lord Marshall of Knightsbridge and others at the weekend.

Sharp intake of breath at the Corporation, which is officially neutral given the split of opinion in the City. Mayhew was criticised at last Monday's meeting of her committee and can expect further flak a week today, when the Court of Common Council meets.

She says she put her name to list of supporters of the new group in a private capacity and that her Corporation title should not have been used. This is felt to be disingenuous, as she would hardly have been asked if she were merely a lawyer at Wilde Sapte, her job in the world out-



Judith Mayhew is in trouble vith the Corporation for Err pro-European views

that we would have liked to have been asked first," says a mole close to the committee. So you could say no? "That was. I suppose, the way the question was leading."

ACCOUNTANCY AGE conducts weekly and sometimes useful straw polls of finance di-rectors on issues of the day. Sometimes. I fear I got no fur-ther than the headline of this weeks. "Financial directors unmoved by neutral Budget," it says.

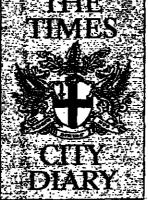
Plane checky A TERRIBLE story reaches me from a good source in Ni-geria that should serve as a

warning to anyone thinking of doing business there. A 747, I do not know which airline, landed and started to taid towards the terminal, only to meet a line of planks piled up across the tunway. The plane stopped, and the

pilot radioed the control tower. We'll look into it, he was told. Minutes passed in the cockpit. and then someone heared muffled knocking from under the plane. Everyone stayed put Then a lorry was seen to emerge from under the belly of

someone had unscrewed the aircraft's hold and made off with all the luggage Moral: keep your possessions close to you, and not in

Claude cover WE WOULD think it odd if. the plane and streak off. The ooh, Sir Peter Davis of the Pru aircrew alighted, to find that were to sit on the boards of the Halifax, Barclays Bank and Lloyds TSB and hold sway over whether the three should be merged into the world's bigthe hold. "You almost have to gest bank. But this is pretty admire them, don't you?" says much the situation in France.



KINGFISHER'S insistence that it is a European company meant some complex shenanieans for its results briefing yesterday. Sir Geoff Mulcahy was beamed in to the City from a meeting in Paris, where a presentation from Kingfisher and its French DIY partner, Castorama, was taking place.

Translation was provided for those of our analysts not fluent in French. The operation was deemed successful, if a little long winded. But one of the more sceptical analysts did wonder whether, since Kingfisher never answers questions anyway, this arrangement simply made awkward questions easier to avoid.

my informant. Where one man, Claude

Bébéar, will largely decide the fate of the BNP bid for Société Générale and Paribas.

Bébéar sits on the boards of SocGen and Paribas, while his right-hand man at Axa is at BNP. This morning Axa releases results in Paris, and Bébéar will be questioned by his shareholders on just what he thinks he is up to. By my analysis, whatever happens he comes out on top, with Axa's position strengthened at the expense of German rivals.

But Bébéar's manoeuvrings have not made him universally popular in the French financommunity because of their impact on the privatisation of a fourth bank, Credit Lyonnais.

It is imperative that the Finance Ministry knows exactly how many French banks there will be left in due course among which to distribute the core shareholdings of CL and prevent these slipping into foreign hands. Given the above, this is no longer possible.

MARTIN WALLER city:diary@the-times.co.uk



The European Index-Tracking PEP

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An annual



No time for complacency on tax

e are now familiar with the business tax headlines of the Budget: Corporation tax at 30 per cent; a small companies rate of 20 per cent; measures targeted at small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) with a 10 per cent tax rate for very small companies from April 2000, an extension of the 40 per cent first-year allowances for SMEs until July 2000 and research and development tax credits for SMEs in the 2000, Budget which would give deductions of 150 per cent of R&D spend with refunds being available to companies that are

No big structural changes to the direct tax system for large companies were proposed. This is good news for most corporates which have been overwhelmed by recent changes to the tax system caused by self-assessment. the new in-year payments on account regime and the abolition of ACT. However, corporates must not assume that it is all over for another year. An active participation in a number of consubative exercises is vital if business is to influence tax policy.

Last year business was disappointed that requests made for in-year payments on account to be based on prior-year profits instead of current-year profits were not heeded. Against this. David Cruickshank says business must attempt to influence policy

consultative exercises: the proposals for a general anti-avoidance rule (GAAR) for corporate direct taxes have been shelved for the time being. Proceeding with this proposal would have resulted in uncertainty on all corporate transactions unless a comprehensive advance clearance mechanism was established and this would have added significantly to costs of doing business.

After the changes to CGT for individuals, there will now be no big changes to the way in which company capital gains are taxed. Tapering relief for companies would have been unnecessarily complex and the removal of indexation relief unfair for many asset-backed companies. There will be further consultation on the rules for international groups, capital losses and gains on the disposal of subsidiaries. Companies should continue to make their views known. The most welcome of the

"new" consultative exercises are on the proposed all-employee share schemes and the proposals to reform the taxation of intellectual property. The proposed to deduct for tax and NI purpos-

cesses in the direct tax area after es up to £1,500 a year for the accuisition of shares in their employer. Employers will be able to give free shares to staff up to a value of £3,000 a year and can provide further free shares on a matching basis if employees buy shares again up to £3,000 a year. After three years, there is a clawback of the income tax relief previously given but the intention is that the growth in the value of the shares during this period should be tax-free. Employers can deduct the employees' salary forgone to purchase shares, the value of any free shares allocated and the set-up costs. No decisions have yet been made about what will happen with existing approved Revenue schemes and this will be subject to consulta-

> 30. 1999, with legislation proposed for the 2000 Finance Bill. The need for reform to the tax-ation of intellectual property is highlighted by the special relief announced in the Budget for the capital cost of acquiring mobile phone licences which would not have attracted tax relief in the UK as the licence is an intangible asset. Significantly the current tax regime in the UK does

tion. Views are required by April

quisition costs of trademarks, brand names, knowhow, etc. In the US relief is available over 15 years. The consultative document, which seeks to define intellectual property (principally by excluding goodwill), asks wheth-er capital allowances or an accounts-based depreciation approach should be used for tax relief and considers whether existing special reliefs (for scientific research and films) should be continued. Views from business are required by July 31, 1999.

view to be broadly revenue-neu-tral. But what are the long-term costs to the Exchequer of an unsatisfactory reform in this area? As full tax relief is available in some other countries, companies could acquire intangibles through overseas subsidiaries and consequently income flows and associated R&D and enhancement will also (probably) take place in those countries. The Government should also

The Government wants the re-

review its plans to charge stamp duty reserve tax on the issue of foreign currency bearer securities on acquisitions as this will militate against the choice of the UK as the parent company location in cross-border mergers where shares in a UK company

David Cruickshank is head of tax at Deloitte & Touche.



David Cruickshank urges participation in consultation

TARREST SURVEY

Customs men go crackers

JUST as food additives are supposed to drive children barking mad, it seems that it is simply the mention of any food that ensures that Customs and Excise takes leave of its senses. The latest VAT decision bears this out. In the past there have been arguments about how far you had to take a meat pie away from a pie stall before it became a takeaway item and arguments about whether Jaffa cakes were indeed cakes.

Now it is the turn of the prawn cracker. The VATmen have decided that it depends on its ingredients. If made from tapioca it escapes the tax. But if made from potato or cereal it incurs VAT. "Bizarre" is how the VAT people at Deloitte & Touche have described the decision. It is good to see that those at Customs and Excise have their curious minds focused on the great issues of the day.

Forging ahead

EVERY management book cli-ché will tell you that the secrets singing from the same hymnbook and to hammer your per-sonality on to the leadership culture. So John McCuin should be well-equipped to deal with his new role as managing partner of Shipleys. This weekperformance of one of Puccinits great choral works and in two weeks time will join the inner circle of the Worshipful Company of Blacksmiths

Stamp duty

AS OUTRAGED practitioners are finding, the Inland Revenue will stop at nothing to devise devious ways to fill the Government's coffers. When it sent out the parcels of press releases that provide the technical back-up for the Budget, it put the equivalent of the postage for one first-class letter on each parcel. No one has yet caiculated the amount of "excess postage due" that has been

Lucky for some

NICK LAND, Ernst & Young's artistic senior partner, has passed another milestone This is the thirteenth time I've seen the Monet exhibition," he was telling guests at the E&Y-sponsored blockbuster show at the Royal Academy last week. And he prefers it to past shows the firm has sponsored. "After 13 visits to the Cezanne I was really flagging," he said. "But this is wonderful." It also shows that, despite being mired in the firm's strategy, he can still count.

ROBERT BRUCE

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Companies Code changes are coming. They start on 1st June.



All The

Phone

Game is up for a once-noble profession

IT HAS been an extraordinary week of rumours. Emizens have been calling up and prefacing their re-marks with: "It's not April 1,

Rumours of the UK board of Ernst & Young being in emergency session abounded, with a succes-sion of limos dropping off partners at the goods lift at the back of Becket House so they could arrive without

raising suspicions.
One minute the theory was that E&Y's UK arm was going to join Arthur Andersen. Then, perhaps, it was their US firm, riled by plans to move the international headquarters from New York to London, which was going to do a bunk Or maybe it was Canada. And would the rump of the firm throw in its lot with Deloitte & Touche? Or maybe KPMG and Grant Thornton were going to get

It all stems from the ambitions of Arthur Andersen. With the rift with Andersen Consulting as permanent as it could be, the firm needs to increase its income and growth. And the avowed policy of its world-

wide chief, Jim Wadia, is to these through poach-ing chunks of other firms.

So far it has successful, but those successes have been practices and teams outside the mainstream of the accounting world. Now the the firm is aiming to bring off

But the signs are that there is

ROBERT BRUCE

Andersens out in the market being its usual aggres-sive self is destabilising the market, and a heightened rumour market is the result. But the real lessons to be drawn are different. What we are seeing are further signs that what used to be known as the accountancy profession has turned into just another service provider. It used to be advertising agencies that provided this sort of mix-and-match fun. They endlessly transmuted from one set of odd initials to another. Creative teams came and went.

some faltering in the final furlong. Having

Clients were presumed to follow the stars of the business from one firm to another and so keep track of all the circuitous transformations. But really they just stopped caring. Now it is the accounting business. It is no longer a profession. What they are selling is a commodity. They have cut themselves adrift from the old idea that they were people of substance who were there to act as the voice of sanity when companies pushed creative accounting to the margins.

People used to talk of good financial reporting, backed up by strong members of the accounting pro-

lowering the cost of capital. But the signs now are that the profession has decided that they really are just sim-

ply salesmen for a line of products. That is fine. It is how the consulting arms of the firms have grown. They have never had any doubt about it. Spot a market and pitch into it with a product line.

But the fundamentals of the firms were supposed to provide assurance. They were not supposed to have their heads turned by the ludicrous flights of fancy that the oversized egos of the business world are prone to

following.
Small wonder that the reputation of the accounting world is plummeting. Take Warren Buffett, for example. In his annual report to shareholders, which was released this week, Buffett, one of the most influential investment experts in the world, argued that the state of financial reporting had plunged to a new low in America. He blamed the

work at manipulating numbers and deceiving investors," he said. So where

were the auditors, those pillars of probity. who are there for the sole reason of stamp-ing out this sort of thing? Buffett's argument was that auditors simply gave in. tively came up with creative accounting scams to sell to

clients. Now that is it could be argued that this is sour grapes from Buffett after a year of disappointing performance. But financial reporting is supposed to be getting better. And it is not, particularly in America. One person I was talking to earlier this week has been trying to hire a large number of very bright Americans for a particular strand of new business. He had collated some figures on the people he has been

interviewing. Some 60 per cent of their existing remuneration packages were in options. In the US none of such figures goes through the profitand-loss account. This overstates corporate profits and skews statistics on labour costs. It is generally considered to be a scandal But the companies bully the

hapless audit community. And no one closes the financial reporting loophole. It is a small but important example of how the old profession of accountancy has given up the ghost. And this week's rumour market tells the same story. The Big Five firms may prefer playing musical chairs to foreing clients to face the music. but the reality is that for most of them it shows the world that the game is up._

Together

of Busin

Suesting thapping Sings Continuity

Recovery iggional curvicus

BUSINESS CONTINUITY

FOUS

Eve-Ann Prentice introduces a three-page report on the experts who help companies to cope or even thrive when disaster strikes

orking life is one disas-ter after another for William Want-Sibley. He spends his days and many nights - racing around Britain visiting businesses in the throes of a crisis. He has seen it all: from flood, fire and theft to collapsag buildings and terrorist bombs.
But Mr Want-Sibley is not some sort of catastrophe voyeur. He is a troubleshooter, usually brought in by one of the big insurance companies, to try to keep a stricken business to try to keep a stricken business. ness trading or at least to minimise

BUSINESS

Namp day

Sion

lost working time in the immediate aftermath of a disaster. While company directors are still reeling from the shock of finding their stockroom under water or their main switchboard turned to ashes, the London businessman and his company. Response 2000, are often already taking control, organising emergency repairs and re-storing a semblance of normality. they have the experience to know where to get hold of vital staff and equipment in a hurry.

Response 2000 is not short of work. In the next five years, a fifth of all UK businesses will suffer a disaster, if past figures are anything to go by. And while Mr Want-Sibley and his team may be a godsend after a crisis, it is becoming clear that companies should make plans for dealing with all manner of emergencies long before they

Business continuity manage-ment — making sure that the show can go on -- can mean limiting the damage of had publicity, ensuring the damage of had publicity, ensuring that there are backups of vital computer files away from business premises, or even deciding how to the if all the staff succumb to flu.

Small and medium-sized companions that the the the companions are the companions of the co nies may think that they could cope with the unknown, but the truth is that 80 per cent of companies which

do not have a crisis plan in place go out of business within 13 months of facing an emergency.
These are the figures compiled by the Business Continuity Institute (BCI), an umbrella group for the profession which provides the only recognised qualification in the field. It has 660 professionals in 19

"Business continuity manage-ment takes an holistic view of an organisation. It's about anticipating what can go wrong and taking appropriate planned and rehearsed steps to maintain critical business processes while the business recovers," says John Sharp, the chief ex-

ecutive of the BCI.

"Unlike disaster planning, business continuity management examines the entire business. Using a days the regulator had tightened the penalties on Virgin trains."





Aquasculum

From floods at the Welcombe Hotel, above, to the Manchester bombing, right, William Want-Sibley, back left, and his team are ready for action

The troubleshooters

Analysis, those are-as of a business which are most vulnerable are identified. The loss of customer or investor confidence will feature high on the list. In a fast-movcompentive world, the failure of any company to meet customer expectations or needs an opportunity for a competitor to move in," he says. No one can predict or prevent cri-

ses such as fire and flood, but the way these emergencies are handled can have a huge impact its. So can failing to foresee public relations opportunities that backfire.

"The Virgin brand is known worldwide and is based on innovative products and service," Mr Sharp says. "The fiasco with the train company running late with

on company prof- Response 2000 had the Aquascutum shop in Manchester open 48 hours after starting bomb repairs The institute also points to the Shell oil company and says it has lost its "You can be sure of Shell"

image. "It now has a grimmer image after its perceived involvement with Nigeria's political problems," Mr Sharp says. The company has full disaster re-covery plans in place, the BCI ac-

cepts. But Mr Sharp asks: "Do they have business community plans that address the wider, softer issues

which risk-management fails to

The cost of implementing a business continuity plan varies enormously, depending on the size and complexity of the company. One firm might need to concentrate on diverting its mail-handling, another on finding alternative accommodation if the worst happens.

Using one of the specialised companies, which can oversee this for your firm, can cost from £10,000 to hundreds of thousands of pounds. according to the

"A small company might just need to back up its com-puter files," Mr Sharp says. "Medicompanies could combine the role of a business continuity manager with that of risk manager. However, the managers responsible must understand the different approach that business continuity will require."

But even the best insurers and damage limitation experts such as Response 2000 to

When the Manchester bomb devastated the city centre on June 15, 1996. Aquascutum's shop was among the most badly hit. Floors, walls and ceiling were damaged, while shards of glass had been driven into the fabric of thousands of pounds worth of clothes.



was the first store to open for busi-ness again — within 48 hours of re-pair work starting. "The bomb went off on the Saturday, but we were not allowed near the site until Wednesday afternoon," says Karen Hepburn, Aquascutum's regional manager.

"Our insurers brought in Response 2000 and we were open for business on Friday morning. They do not know the meaning of 'no'."

omb repair work included a new shopfront, temporary glazing, new floor slabs, suspended ceilings, decorating throughout the shop, stone repairs outside, carpet cleaning, French polishing and alarm re-pairs. Meanwhile, the ruined stock was taken away and replacement goods brought in.

Less than a year ago, floodwater poured into the Welcombe Hotel

Avon, just as the Easter break was about to start. By the following day, Good Friday, the main kitchen was under two feet of water, guests had been evacuated and management was considering calling in the

Instead, a Response 2000 disaster team arrived and business was under way again within 24 hours. "One wing of the hotel had been badly hit and all furnishings and electrical appliances had to be removed, including sports equipment and sunbeds," Mr Want-Sibley says. "Our special resources ena-bled us to have 80 dehumidifiers de-livered and shared between this site and another claim five miles away. Plant-hire facilities were available 24-hours a day in spite of the bank

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Peter Power explains how companies can set up a survival plan in case of a real catastrophe

How to stand the heat in the kitchen

els seem to stop working: all the dials go into the red zone, the data hecome misleading and normal measurements can

Experience has shown that, when suddenly faced with a catastrophe, all of us have a tendency to try to follow familiar references — things such as double-checking diary appointments or making a cup of

The more disturbing the situation, the stronger the urge to take refuge in familiar proœdures. Such routine or familiar tasks are invariably inappropriate in the circumstances, but they can act as a mental circuit breaker to keep us same

Unable to work with the reality of the unscheduled, the unexpected, the unavoidable, the unimaginable, the unprecedented, the unnecessary or the unbelievable, many senior managers realise too late that their board-level skills have poorly equipped them to deal

with sudden crises. Many emergency plans still provide little more than a spurious comfort factor to senior management and are seldom linked to any real benefits. In general, crises follow a sudden and unexpected shift that disturbs the ordinary course of events. This leads to a state of

instability and uncertainty. The critical juncture may be of two types: either the crisis is the result of factors outside the normal development, or it is the result of the development itself. Once this development passes a certain point, it cre-

ates a state of chaos. I have been involved with a number of tests where the chief executive or MD has been about to fall over when put under pressure. Other executives want to keep going in increasingly bizarre ways. Subordinate staff seem power-

MORE POWER TO YOUR ELBOW

BUSINESSES are being inundated by advice in the helter-skelter dash towards the millennium. So a government decision to produce a pioneering series of guides about management best prac-tice may seem like offer-ing a glass of water to a drowning man.

The publications are, however, intended as a lifebelt and will be published by the Department of Trade and Industry in a drive to help firms to compete more effectively.

The first in the series has been written by Peter Power who discusses his role in the world of business continuity here.

Mr Power is a member of the judging panel for the annual Business Continuity Planning Awards and managing director of Visor Consultants. Continuity Business Management - Preventing Chaos in a Crisis will be posted on the DTI's website, www.dti. gov.uk/mbp by the end of

On the other hand, sales managers can sometimes have a higher competence threshold in a catastrophe and may thrive in a crisis.

Following a test or exercise. debriefings can produce statements such as: "Perhaps we only confessed our little faults to persuade people that we did not have larger ones" or "The chief executive was exhausted. the MD was exhausted, all of us were exhausted. I found it comforting that on day one we were so totally unanimous."

Often, when a disaster recovery plan does exist, it has nev-

tial" stamp do not ensure that they are relevant.

Any plan should be the result of a continuous process. of which the document marked "plan" is only the written presentation of management competence to be adhered to in the event of a likely crisis.

Plans are seldom linked to any real benefits such as possible insurance premium reductions, reducing the amount of business interruption insurance required or protecting

Other things to consider

 Mitigation of exposure to Health & Safety Regulations; Improved operational resil-

 Enhanced team spirit; Retention of profits; Continued trading ability in

 Attractiveness to investors. In my experience, the worst

consequences result when organisations fail to prevent a crisis from getting worse and wake up only when things have deteriorated to the point of disaster. Although there are excep-

tions to this, few managers and their employees understand that options exist to train people in business continuity management (BCM) to act with confidence and skill at the initial stages of an incident to stop it spreading.

ery often it is the competency level of an individual and the initial reaction team that determines how good or bad things will become, rather than some irreversible process that forces an organisation to be solely reactive rather than

Moreover, there is now strong evidence which suggests that a company's recov-



diately following a catastrophic loss is largely independent of insurance cover.

It depends more on highquality risk management and business continuity systems. That is not to say insurance

cover is unnecessary: it is very important indeed, but it should be seen - similar to recovering information technology systems and databases - only as part of the solution within an effective risk management, or better still, busi-

ness continuity (BC) process. There are several variations in building up a BC process: some of the following steps: top-level commitment: the initiation of the BCM process; identifying the threats and risks to the organisation; management of the risks and analysing the likely consequences of business failures.

Other points to watch out for are: developing strategies; developing and implementing the written plan to deal with any crisis; testing, exercising and maintaining the plan; and going back to the top every few to validate the process.

I have encouraged many

existing plans are "crisis friendly". By that I mean capable of being read in a crisis, perhaps by an employee whose heart is beating faster than normal and who is working in a very odd or even dangerous environment.

Above all else, plans must be designed to inform the reader, not protect the author.

in an age where the unthinkable has become possible and the unlikely commonplace, perhaps the question is not whether a business can afford to implement business confid ity management strategies out whether it can afford not to.

Shaken and stirred into action

A recovery company learnt key lessons when its own offices were shattered by a bomb blast

⁶The

lesson

t a restaurant in Walton-on-Thames, Surrey, senior executives were enjoying a drink before a celebratory dinner to mark a successful year for their company when the sales and mar-

keting director burst in.
To disbelieving ears, Mick
Williams reported that a bomb
had exploded in London's Docklands close to one of the company's main offices. The blast had been devastating but so, too, was the news because the company was in the disas-ter recovery business and the office affected contained 650 fully equipped desks supported by an independent cable system and telephone exchange for other companies to use in

such an emergency. The executives of SG-RS (Sema Group-Recovery Services) reached for their mobile phones but there was no sigoverriding nal. So they raced to the local office to

mation they could and start making fresh plans. "Like my colleagues, the executives of other companies in the bomb zone had yet to hear the news that

gather what infor-

but it was clear there was chaos all around our building in Harbour Exchange." Mr Williams recalls.

As the evening wore on, the calls began to come in from our clients. Three of us headed for our office at 7am the next morning but it was Sunday before we could get inside to assess the damage, which was

John Kersley, the general manager of SG-RS, says: "One of the things proved that night was that the best laid plans can be interrupted. Some of our clients had suffered a disaster but we had one of our own at the same time. We had

in an emergency but we didn't know what to expect ourselves. A few years ago, we would have been in an impossible position but we had grown to a sufficient size to be able to cope."

Like other leading busines continuity companies, SG-RS had learnt from the two previ ous IRA bombs targeted at financial institutions in London - at the Baltic Exchange and in Bishopsgate. They recog-nised that their clients might require more than systems backup and they might need more than one emer-

gency centre.

Although five clients lost premises in the Docklands bombing, all were accommodated by SG-RS: three in a recovery centre at Wapping, East London, and two

with manufactur ing operations at a specialist centre at Hoddesdon in Hertfordshire. The ce tres had to be mode fied to cope with the unexpected load but operated suc-

was that The bomb in 1996 claimed two you need millions of pounds options? in damage, some of which is still being repaired.

"It took 18 months before everything was restored in our centre at Harbour Exchange." Mr Williams says, "but that weekend we briefed all our staff about where to go and what to do on the Sunday. By Monday, our clients were operating normally and their customers didn't know they had

suffered a disaster." Mr Kersiey adds: "The over riding lessons for a disaster recovery company which migh suffer a disaster itself are that you need options and must not rely, because of the communications problems, on just one or two senior executives."

TONY DAWE

Don't drown — let the bugbusters be your lifeline

n the past 12 months the question of disaster recovery has come to the forefront of every computer manager's mind as the prospect of the biggest threat of all looms large: the year 2000 and the millennium bug.

But because so much attention is concentrated on it, the Y2K problem (as it is called in computing circles) may end up causing disasters beyond its remit as other more mundane problems are ignored.

The good news is that we know, roughly, when it is going to be a problem; only roughly because not all its influence is being saved up for midnight at the end of this year. Systems that need to date things years ahead have al-

Computer loss collapse of a firm, reports

ready felt its influence. One high-street store found its

can lead to the **Chris Ward**

warehouse computer was rejecting cases of pickled onions. Their physical "best before" date was well into the next century, but the store's warehouse computer thought the "00" at the end of the date meant they were nearly 100 years old.

More mundane problems can happen at any moment. Hard disks can crash, power sup-plies can fail, keyboard operators can delete the wrong files.

Many information technology managers have already imposed bans on anything other than routine maintenance for fear that what is now a Y2K compliant system will fail if an untested component is installed and upsets the delicate balance of their system. There are two potential prob-

lems with this approach: first, a component may fail through inattention and second, when January I. 2000 arrives, systems are going to be stressed as some departments try to apply hundreds of software patches and hardware upgrades to sys-tems which have not been touched in months. Ultimately. this becomes a classic conundrum where you will be damned if you do not change and damned if you do.

Y2K apart, the constant daily disaster waiting to happen in any computing department is data loss. Power failure. hardware failure and user stupidity are the usual causes. and all can be guarded

The Uninterruptable Power Supply (UPS) has become so re-fined that it can now guard

TRY working when the tele-



Systems back-up providers can save your data and prevent your business from going under

against loss of external power. save data and close machines down in a way which ensures that they will start up again correctly once power is re-

treme cases - Liebert Europe out for more than a few min-installed a system for the direc-utes something more perma-

tory company Scoot which working inside a flooded barn, the purpose-built enclosure keeping the waters at bay and

But if power is going to be

the system powered up.

sites can help. Guardian, which has huge standby computing facilities in

nent needs to be set up, which is where specialist disaster recovery firms with customer-ready One of the largest of these is

the country. It can provide alter-

For the home user it may not matter much if they are without a computer for a few days, but for a firm of stockbrokers it could mean bankruptcy. For small and medium enterprises (SMEs) the sheer cost of maintaining a second site into which they can move their business is probably prohibitive. For such companies, however, a little planning can go a long way.

rooms and data backup.

The key to recovering from disaster is the ability to access data within a sufficiently quick period so that your customers either are not inconvenienced or do not notice. This means having some method of off-site data storage - a location from which, if your premises burn down and everything is destroyed, you can access as much of your data as possible. Small companies as well as

individuals can be well served by the online storage companies. These allow your comput-ers to dial into their backup facilities during the night and upload copies of your sensitive data, which can then be accessed from any computer with a modern, should anything hap-pen. Larger companies will want to employ a data storage company to keep copies of their backup tapes in secure premises, available at short notice.

No matter what your strategy is, the key to it working when it matters is testing - do not wait until it has all gone pear-shaped before working out how on earth you are going to read those disks you have been storing with a data storage firm. It is no use having instant access to the data if it is going to take you three days to install and configure the computer system you need to read it.

L'Oréal, the cosmetics company, uses a system from Synstar Business Continuity to previde a telecoms-based recovery system for its sites. L'Oréal uses the SAP accounts system. and if one of its sites suffers a breakdown which cannot be repaired, a courier brings its latest backup to L'Oreal's Paris headquarters where it is run on an identical piece of hardware. The remote site then accesses the data until the local fault can be repaired.

Again, the key is planning: work out how long you can stand to be without your data. and then put in place a system which can be up and running within that vital period.

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TELEPHONES

Phones to the fore

phone is constantly ringing. That is bad enough. Then try working when the telephone never rings. You will probably go out of business. The arrival of faxes, e-mail and computer networks does not alter the fact that the hum-

ble telephone and the tele-phone wire are the lifeline of all businesses. Experts say that 80 per cent of processes that are critical to business depend on the tele-

phone. Neil McLochlin, head of a business continuity working group at British Telecom. says: "It is not just about answering the telephone, it is about data, information and accessibility. You must be online and accessible to your cus-

Roger Giblet, a communications consultant at Telecom Po-tential, which specialises in

business continuity, goes fur-ther: "For any business continuity plan, the effective and immediate management of telephone communications is critical. in an emergency, not only is regular telephone traffic jeopardised but the levels of calls are likely to escalate, exacerbating the situation and fuel-

ling the crists. Whether or not the building is evacuated or the switchboard is incapacitated, if callers can't get through then business may be lost. By planning to maintain vital communications, you can avoid unneces-

sary threats or risks." Companies such as Telecom Potential work with clients to determine the types of calls normally received, the different telephone numbers they use and which are the repst

valuable or important. It then designs a system to segregate the calls in an emergency. answering the most impor-

British Telecom can provide a telehousing service where systems and information can be duplicated and housed off the premises.

However, Mr McLochlin says that it may not be necessary to rent or buy a separate building given the trend to-wards flexible working. He says: "Many people no

longer have a specific place of work. Before, all information was stored only at the place of work. Now it is managed on networks, so by using the phone at home or mobiles. staff can conduct business in a seamless way. The implications of a disaster in one location are less because of that."

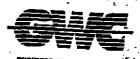
RODNEY HOBSON

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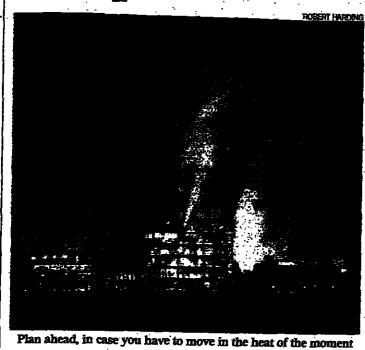
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Keep cool, dial 999 and then switch to your new offices



t is the little things in life that make business continuity interesting. One such story is mid by Paul Barnes, the managing director of Adam Associates, a group that combines business coninuity consultancy with specialisation in information technology.

He says: "We were called to a financial institution that had moved into offices with an arboreturn. The automatic watering sys-tem had not yet been activated, so the caretaker stuck a hosepipe into

the earth during his lunch break.

"We got a callout when the company started to lose access to its networks and power was going down sporadically. We moved people on to new equipment while we started to track down the problem. When we lifted the floor we found that all the trays carrying cables were full of water because the hosepipe had slipped out of the soil. How do you plan against that?

Planning against that kind of incident is, however, what companies must try to do and an array of

Rodney Hobson reports on the support services who ensure that you stay in business when things go wrong

specialists is on hand to rescue still a major service provided by firms struck by the unexpected.

Adam Associates is one of many companies in business continuity that has found there are benefits in offering consultancy and services in a combined operation. Mr Barnes explains: "Business interruptions never go as you expect them to. You have to be able to react quickly, so we put in a profes-sional services side, identifying risks and helping clients to prepare for them.

"As a consultancy there is no point in preaching a message un-less you have lived and breathed it and you have been there at 3am when the building is full of smoke." Adam Associates also helps to build and design fallback sites for companies if their offices are inac-cessible because of a disaster.

Keeping offices on standby is

the Tees estuary.

Staff had put resources into the site and as soon as it was af-

fected they were eager to clear

it up and the company accepted responsibility," he says. The story died away quickly.

'Another example was a BP

oil leak in the Mersey. Sir Bob

Reid, then chairman of BP,

went on television immediate-

ly to say the company would

take responsibility and restore

everything that had been af-

fected. It would have had to do

that anyway but the chair-

man's honest message created

That approach was in com-

olete contrast to the Exxon Valdez oil disaster off the Alaskan

coast. The company tried to

avoid taking responsibility

and didn't put up any senior executives for interview."

Michael Seymour, the director of risk management at

First & 42nd, says three things

lem must be solved, communications controlled and the rest

others are often forgotten at

great cost," he says. "Unless

you are careful, communica-

tions can lead the issue and the

real facts and the perception of

the company get muddled up

with rumour and speculation."

The first is obvious but the

of the business looked after.

a positive reaction.

the business continuity sector. Synstar has business recovery centres. equipped with computer networks at Livingston, near Edinburgh. Leeds, Birmingham and London, and another about to open at Wellingborough. Any one of 800 clients, mainly from the financial sector, could decamp to one of the sites or call in a mobile unit. At

least one of them does every week. Dave Dignam, the international product marketing manager, says the mobile market, where continuity experts rolled up with an office perched on the back of a lorry, was the original method of rescuing the afflicted, but the main demand now is for fixed sites in buildings. Some firms occupy niche posi-

tions in the business continuity sector, such as storing archives, acting as consultants or restoring One niche player is GWC, one of a number involved in printing and mailing, a business that it admits is "probably the least glamorous of all business continuity issues".

It has a dedicated facility for high-speed printing for clients such as Barclaycard. GWC may be called on to print invoices, account statements or mailshots. It can print up to 1.5 million sheets and enclose 500,000 envelopes in a day.

Neil Courtney at Belfor Imbach says that apart from information technology, where there is usually a before and after service, business continuity has tended to split among companies helping to plan to avert disaster and those that pick up the pieces afterwards. He says Belfor is one of the few companies that does both in the field of

your organisation is on its IT in

80% of 'disasters' are IT related, so the more dependent

you are to the conse spices of IT downtime.

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Among the IT specialists that offer consultancy on mitigating disasters and back-up services if things do go wrong is SG-RS, a subsidiary of the international IT services company Sema. Its customers include eight of the world's top ten financial institutions as well as local authorities and leading retailing, manufacturing, logis-

tics and utility companies.

Guardian, with 1,000 clients including a third of Britain's 100 biggest companies, offers vaults to store critical data, fully-equipped computer sites dotted around the country, and has II self-contained mobile units that can be moved to the client's site within 24 hours.

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estructure, the more vulnerable

The art of turning a crisis into a PR victory

How do businesses best prepare for the day their company goes off the rails, asks Tony Dawe

xperts in crisis management are fond of quoting an odd Chinese fact rather than proverb. Apparently, there is no Cantonese word for crisis but two characters are used to convey the meaning. On their own the characters mean "danger" and "opportunity".

Creating an opportunity out of a crisis is becoming an in-

creasingly potent part of business continuity planning Those same experts. can point to examples where companies as diverse as British Midland

and Nestle have profited from calamities and caringly, in-creasing passengers, customers and share prices when the opposite might

"It is essential for businesses to have a plan of ac-material. If you give them a tion detailing what people should do in the event of something going wrong, whether it's an air crash, contaminated goods or systems failure," says John Sharp, chief executive of the Business Continuity Institute. "They must have a proactive message for the market-

ing director of Crisis Corp, adds: "Turning threats into opportunities needs good creative thinkers who can talk positively about the company and how it is capable of handling a

saying we will take care of everything' because their lawyers won't like it, but if they say nothing the company will be considered uncar-

We would arm

them with media

packages so that they can brief the

tive aspects of the

company and its

record in the past.
"If there is little

Ministers reached and.

information available mitially, jour-nalists will pad bothered out their reports

with background proactive package, they will be on the way to creating a story you want. Otherwise they will rely on someone else's spe-Examples abound of poor public relations worsening a

crisis for a company. Virgin, a brand with an innovative and lively image, compounded the Robert Heath, the manag- poor perception of its train com-

WFB PAGE: http://www.adeni.co.uk



Virgin rail boss Richard Branson grabs a Blackpool photo opportunity - but make sure your trains run on time

pany by delivering government ministers and party supporters year's Blackpool conference.

"Within ten days, the regulator had tightened the penalties

"If the company had undertaken a full impact analysis on its business, it would have realised that the conference provided a great opportunity to im-press the decision-makers but could also be an opportunity

Shell has also suffered from its attempt to dispose of the Brent Spar oil rig in the Atlantic

"Greenpeace supporters in Germany blockaded all the Shell service stations and the company's market share plummeted," recalls Mr Sharp.

"The company is now sitting down belatedly to work with Greenpeace and environmental bodies to debate the most effective way of dealing with redundant platforms instead of getting into conflict."

In contrast, Mr Sharp cites last month's hydrochloric acid spillage from the Tioxide Europe plant which affected protected marshland used by

THE INTERNET IS A FUNNY THING . . .

Duh-2000 com the emphasis is strictly on cornedy.

more days to say something stupid about the year 2000".

can Vice-President Al Gore. This month it was a telecommunica-

tions official in Russia, who said that agencies were half done fixing the problem when they had calculated how much money was needed. Y2K Humour at http://www.doit.state.ct.us/y2k/humor.

him (not to be confused with the Year 2000 Humour site at http://www.etckc.com/etcweb07.htm) includes well-known song lyrics and poems rewritten to have a computer crashing theme.

Year 2000 Humour includes 33 tongue-in-cheek reasons not to

fear the coming malfunctions including: "You enjoyed your

grandparent's stories about the Great Depression and would

Authors of the best original jokes contest are listed at http://www.year2000.com/y2khumor.html. Laughs among the

six winners focus on lawyers, monkeys that work on millennium

bug problems and who gets into heaven after the Y2K debacle.

bug problems and who gets into heaven after the Y2K debacle.
Cartoonist Randy Glasbergen has put up more than a dozen of
his Y2K-related designs at http://www.glasbergen.com/y2k.
hml. A broader array of editorial cartoons on the millennium
bug topic are posted at http://www.cagle.com/Y2K/.
There are also a few spoofs that skip right past 2000 and look
to potential disasters in later years. The Y3B site at
http://www.y5b.com theorises that the sun has only enough fuel
remaining to burn for five billion years more

like to experience them for yourself".

remaining to burn for five billion years more

"Don't panic - we still have time," the site says.

e says that it is important to gather as much informa-

tion as possible about what has happened so on Virgin Trains," says Mr that you can produce a single accurate picture for the media. bearing in mind not just the general public but customers, regulators and competitors.

"It is equally important to keep staff informed and motivated because if all the decision-makers are sucked into the crisis, the rest of the business will lack direction and employees will become disconcerted and lose momentum."

Mr Seymour insists that a core management team of senior executives, including legal and technical specialists, must be ready to swing into action, know where to operate from and where to brief the media. They must also know where to find the relevant middle

manager with expert knowledge of the particular problem, whether it is a production line manager or an infor-mation technology expert. "Finally when the plans are

in place, test and validate them to make sure they work," Mr Seymour says.

DOZENS of sites on the World Wide Web offer helpful tips or stern warnings about the year 2000 computer bug, but on The site is at http://www.duh-2000.com and collects the dumbest things said or written about the millennium bug and awards a monthly prize for the silliest. Recently the site warned "only 30! Past winners have included novelist Tom Clancy and Ameri-

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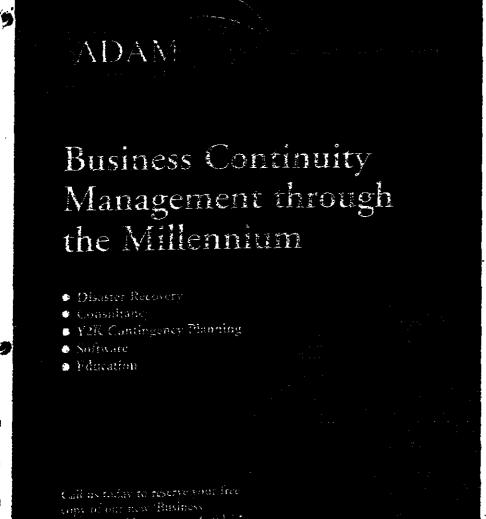
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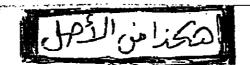
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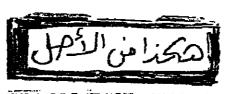
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Official Receiver can get costs in person

In re Minotaur Data Systems (Disqualification of Unfit Direc-Before Lord Justice Aldous and Lord Justice Sedley

(Judgment March 2) The Official Receiver could recover his costs as a litigant in person un-der section I of the Litigants in Person (Costs and Expenses) Act 1975 when he acted without representation in disqualification proceed-ings against a company director.

The costs recoverable by the Official Receiver as a litigant in person were not limited to disbursements but were to be assessed in accordance with Order 62, rule 18(2) of the Rules of the Supreme Court as not more than two-thirds of what been represented by a solicitor.

The Court of Appeal so held in a reserved judgment allowing an appeal by the Official Receiver against the decision of Mr Justice Ferris in the Chancery Division (The Times June 25, 1998) upholdng the refusal of Deputy Master Thum to permit him to recover, as a lingant in person, costs incurred by him in seeking disqualification orders against three company di-rectors, John Brunt, Paul Derek Sil-

ver and Nigel Howard Nugent Mr Jonathan Crow for the Official Receiver: Mr Peter J. Martin for Mr Brunt: Mr Silver and Mr Nugent did not appear and were

LORD JUSTICE ALDOUS, giving the judgment of the court, said that the Company Directors Disqualification Act 1986 permitted tion order against a director whose company had become insolvent and whose conduct made him unfit to be concerned in the management of a company.

Section 7 of the Act gave the Official Receiver locus standi to move for a director's disqualification and

Refore Lord Justice Hirst, Lord Jus-

lice Mummery and Lord Justice

Provided it correctly exercised its

discretion and took account of prej-

udice to both parties, a court could

in an appropriate case adjourn

pending the outcome of an appeal

to the House of Lords on an issue

on which the Court of Appeal had

The Court of Appeal so held dis-

missing an appeal by the plaintiff, Kingscastle Ltd, from a decision of

Mr Recorder Paulusz in Shoreditch County Court on April

6, 1998 that the plaintiff's claim against the defendant, Gary Chris-

topher Wayne Owen-Owen, for possession of 25a Cassland Road,

Homerton, London, be adjourned

on the same terms as ordered by Judge Graham, QC, on January

[Judgment February 19]

already ruled.

tors) Proceedings Rules (\$1 1987 No 2023) provided that the Official Receiver had right of audience in such proceedings

The Official Receiver had obtained disqualification orders in the High Court against the three directors, together with an order against each director that he pay the Official Receiver's costs of the application on an indemnity basis.

When it was lodged, the bill of costs had fallen into two parts: part I had related to work done by the Official Receiver himself: part 2 had related to work done by the Treasury Solicitor, who had been instructed for the latter part of the proceedings, and to his disburse-ments, which included counsel's

No issue had been taken on the recoverability of the costs claimed in part 2. As to part 1, the official receiver had contended that as a litigant in person he was entitled to have his costs taxed according to Order 62, rule 18 of the Rules of the

Supreme Court.

Both that rule and the Litigants in Person (Costs and Expenses) Act 1975 dealt with the costs of a "litigant in person" without shedding further light on the ambit of the ex-

The deputy master had concluded that the Official Receiver did not rank as a litigant in person and so could tax no costs under the 1975 Act and Order 62, rule 18. On appeal to the judge, it had been argued on the Official Receiver's behalf that the litigant in person was not, in law, the Official Receiver

Before the Court of Appeal, the official receiver had again put that proposition in the forefront of his argument. As a fallback he had. however, preserved the submis-sion that the Official Receiver, if unrepresented in the conduct of an application to disqualify a director, was himself a litigant in person for

date after the decision of the House

of Lords on an application for leave

to appeal in Fitzpatrick v Sterling Housing Association Ltd [1998] Ch

Mr Benedict Seli for the plain-

LORD JUSTICE HIRST said

Fitzpatrick was a case in which the

Court of Appeal had rejected an ap-

peal of a deceased tenant's gay part-

ner against a possession order in circumstances similar to those of

The House of Lords had since

granted provisional leave to appeal

and the case was due to be heard in

Judge Graham's decision to

grant the adjournment was clearly

an exercise of discretion in which

he had carefully weighed up the

prejudice to both sides.

The recorder had adjourned on

tiff: Mr Jan Luba for the defend-

Kingscastle Ltd v Owen- 20, 1998, namely until the first open

the purpose of taxing and recover-Did the Official Receiver act in

right of the Crown? The origin of the surprising proposition that an Official Receiver represented the Crown seemed to lie in a departmental note on the origins of the office which contained the following passage:

Today official receivers are paid employees of the Department of Trade and Industry (ie civil servants) who act under the direction of the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry (section 400 of the In-solvency Act 1986) who appoints and removes them (section 399)." That was in law an incorrect ac-

count; but it perhaps explained why the Official Receiver had felt it necessary to develop an elaborate argument to the effect that the Official Receiver being in law the Crown, the Crown could and did act in person through the Official

While it was entirely under-standable, tactically speaking, that if the Official Receiver wished to construct that petard, Mr Brunt would want to see him hoist with it, a tactical agreement of that kind on a proposition of law could not

The office of Official Receiver was not a prerogative office under the Crown, nor was it made by statute a Crown office. It was a statuto-

But although it was generally oc-cupied by individuals who had until their appointment been civil servants within the Department of Trade and Industry, and although they continued by law to act at and under the direction of the secretary of state, they ceased on appointment to be civil servants in the proper sense of servants of the Crown employed in the business of government within, in the present case, a department of state.

As the holder of a statutory of-

the same terms having considered

the exercise of the discretion

Court Rules, the court had a com-

plete discretion upon application

or of its own motion to adjourn or

advance the date of hearing of any

ment were well known: the main

consideration was the balance of

that the judge and the recorder had

applied the correct principles in the

exercise of their discretion. That

was sufficient to determine the is-

sue, since the court could only inter-fere if the exercise of the discretion

was plainly wrong. Mr Sefi had submitted that the

court of first instance had a duty to

apply the law as it was. In his Lord-

ship's judgment there was no war-

rant for laying down such a hard

His Lordship was quite satisfied

The principles on which adjourn-

By Order 13, rule 3 of the County

powered to bring proceedings, inwould always, without doubt, en duding disqualification proceedings, in his or her own name, and net of public funds, just as any each was accorded by law a right costs which they recovered went back into public funds. of audience before the court to which he or she was attached. Did that make an Official Receiver who

conducted proceedings in his or

her own name without representa-tion, or there was a hitherto unno-

ticed third category between the represented and the unrepresented

igant, namely the litigant ex offi-

The latter was not entirely fanci-

ful. An Official Receiver litigated

not in his or her personal name but

as "The Official Receiver", the defi-

nite article being appropriate since

in each case one such officer alone

was ordinarily empowered to act, and there was an intelligible sense

in which it could be said that it was

the office and not the individual oc-

cupying it which possessed the

right to litigate and to conduct pro-

The possibility of an office, as

distinct from its holder, being a par-ty to litigation derived some sup-

port from the decision of the House of Lords in M v Home Office ([1994]

I AC 377, 424). But it would be a fur-

ther and unwarranted step to de-

vise for procedural purposes a cor-responding and novel category of official litigants.

The legal and physical fact in a

case such as the present was that

the Official Receiver was empow-

ered by law to act without represen-

tation in certain civil proceedings.

When he or she did so, the descrip-

tion "litigant in person" was appo-

It would follow, no doubt, that

Official Receiver would be

any order for costs made against

and fast rule and no authority for

doing so. Mr Sefi had relied on dicta of

Lord Justice Denning in In re Yat

es Settlement Trusts (1954) I WLR

Court of Appeal in In re Downshire

Settled Estates ([1953] Ch 218) and Harman J should have applied the

law as there laid down, without

any misgivings about what the House of Lords might hereafter

But in that same case, Sir Ray-

"It may well be that if an impor-

mond Evershed, Master of the

tant case is known to be subject to appeal to the House of Lords, or to

appeal from a judge of first in-stance to the Court of Appeal, a

judge may reasonably and proper-

ly think that it is in the public inter-

est not to decide another similar

case until the result of the case un-

der appel has become known."

Rolls, had stated:

"The law has been stated by the

The premise on which the apneal had been argued before the exercised the right a litigant in perjudge was therefore unsustainable. The Official Receiver's fallback ar-There were only two possible nent succeeded. Quantification of costs
The Official Receiver had bases for the answer either a litigant in person was anyone who

sought to recover in part I his costs assessed under Order 62, rule 18(2) as two-thirds of the sum whi would have been allowed if he had been represented by a solicitor. Mr Brunt had submitted that the Official Receiver had not suf-

fered pecuniary loss as his salary was paid whether or not he was involved in the proceedings and therefore recovery should be limited to £9.25 per hour pursuant to rule 18(3). The Official Receiver had submitted that just because he and his

support staff had their salaries paid in any event, it was not right to say that the costs of the Official ceiver in the proceedings were limited to disbursements. The costs, like the costs of the Treasury Solicitor in In re Eastwood (Deceased) (1975) Ch 112),

were pecuniary in nature and there-

fore the amount recoverable should be that provided for in rule The court did not believe it to be correct to say that the costs of the Official Receiver were limited to disbursements because he was salaried, any more than it was right to advance that argument in relation to the Treasury Solicitor or a sala-

ried solicitor. The Official Receiver had in-curred costs over and above disrsements. Those costs were pecuniary in nature and amounted to pecuniary loss. It followed that rule 18(2) applied.

Solicitors: Treasury Solicitor;

made against him or her in a per-

Power to adjourn pending House of Lords' decision

Lord Justice Denning's com-

nent had been based on evidence

before the court that the settlor.

who was aged 80, was in delicate health and might shortly die. In his Lordship's judgment each case had to depend on its own

It had been suggested that the re-corder should have required evidence and a pleaded defence before granting the adjournment.

But while it might well be that in some cases a direction of that kind might be appropriate, no such sugstion had been made either before the judge or the recorder. They could not be criticised for not giving decisions which they had not been invited to make. Solicitors: Bishop & Sewell;

no difference to the outcome

The parents appealed and the lo-

pealed on the judge's construction of section 9. Section 9 of the Education Act

shire County Council and An-Before Lord Justice Stuart-Smith. Lord Justice Thorpe and Lord Jus-

tice Sedley (Judgment March 9)

other

Catchpole v Buckingham-

In deciding what educational provision was appropriate for a child with special educational needs and whether to name a particular school in the child's statement of special educational needs, a local education authority was required to take into account the parents expressed preference under section 9 of the Education Act 1996 for an in-

Paragraph 3(3) of Schedule 27 to the Act, which required a local educational authority to give effect to parental preference for a named maintained, grant-maintained or grant-maintained special school save in certain circumstances, did not exclude the general principle in section 9 which established no more than an obligation to have re-gard to a general principle of pa-rental preference.

The Court of Appeal so held in a reserved judgment, dismissing an appeal by Michael and Mary Catchpole, against the dismissal by Mr Justice Laws on May 20, 1998, of their appeal against the decision of the Special Educational Needs Tribunal on November 3, 1997. 1997 not to amend the school named in a statutory statement maintained in respect of their dyslexic son by Buckinghamshire County Council so as to accord with their expressed preference for a named independent special

needs school The tribunal had held that in the case of a child with special edu-cational needs, the obligation to take into account parental preference under section 9 was qualified by paragraph 3 of Schedule 27 to the Act which clearly limited the issue of parental preference to main-tained, grant-maintained or grant-

The tribunal concluded that a residential placement at the independent school preferred by the narents, which their son was already attending, was not necessarily the best thing for him, and that his needs could be met at a named mainstream secondary school maintained by the local education authority. No cost or resource factors entered into the decision.

maintained special schools.

The parents appealed to Mr Justice Laws who agreed that the tribu-nal had erred in holding that section 9 had no application in a spe-cial needs case, but accepted the submission of the local education authority that a correct interpreta-

Parental preference a

general principle

1996 provides: "In exercising or performing all their respective powers and duties under the education Acts, the secretary of state, local education authorities and the funding authorities shall have regard to the general principle that pupils are to be educated in accordance with the wishes of their parents, so far as that is compatible with the provision of efficient instruction and training and the avoidance of unreasonable public expenditure."

Paragraph 3 of Schedule 27 to the Act provides, in relation to children with special educational needs: "(1) Every local education authority shall make arrangements for enabling a parent on whom a copy of a proposed statement ha been served _ to express a preference as to the maintained, grantmaintained or grant-maintained special school at which he wishes ducation to be provided for his

"(3) _ the local education authority ... shall specify the name of that school in the statement unless (a) the school is unsuitable to the child's age, ability or aptitude or to his special educational needs, or (b) the attendance of the child at the school would be incompatible with the provision of efficient education for the children with whom he would be educated or the efficient use of resources."

Mr Nicholas Bowen for the par-ents: Mr Peter Oldham for Buck-

LORD JUSTICE SEDLEY said that section 9 was on its face relevant to all statutory functions under the Act. including functions relating to children with special educational needs under Part IV.

Mr Oldham's contention, however, was that Part IV provided a selfcontained code which gave parents much firmer rights than did section 9, making section 9 redundant in special educational needs cases.

Schedule 27 was carefully designed. Paragraph 3(3) made it mandatory for the statement to name the preferred school unless it was unsuitable for the child or innpatible with the efficien the school or the efficient use of re-

As Mr Justice Laws observed. that was far stronger than any-thing conferred by section 9, which established no more than an obligation to have regard for a general principle of parental preference, qualified likewise by considerations of efficiency and expense.

But the limitation spek out by paragraph 3(1) was that the expressed preference for a child with special educational needs had to be for a school in the state section a school in the state sex

necessary implication excluded the broader section 9 principle. In his Lordship's view it did not.

There was nothing either in Part IV, which included Schedule 27, or in section 9 to suggest that the general principle that pupils were to be educated in accordance with the wishes of their parents was intended to be disregarded in relation to children with special educational

It was superseded by a potential-ly more onerous duty in special educational needs cases where the expressed preference was for a school in the state sector, but that made it more likely, not less, that the section 9 obligation was intended to remain in play where the parental preference was for an independent

The global effect, when section 411 was brought into the picture, was that in special educational needs cases a duly expressed paren-tal preference for a state sector school was binding in the absence of a disqualifying factor, while an expressed preference for an inde-pendent school was to be considered, together with the reasons for it, in the light of the principle enun-

Like Mr Justice Laws, his Lordship concluded that it was unreal to suppose that the tribunal could have come to a different conclusion had it directed itself that section 9 was relevant.

LORD JUSTICE THORPE, concurring, said that the local educa-tion authority had a duty to ensure that a child with special education

al needs was placed at a school that was appropriate. It was not enough for the school to be merely adequate. That in-volved an assessment of what the

school offered matched against the child's needs. If two schools offered facilities and standards exceeding the test of adequacy, his Lordship hoped that the better would be judged appro-priate, assuming no mismatch be-

to play in what was appropriate and might be the decisive factor where there was parity of cost and facilities. But parental preference might be ill-informed or capri-

ween specific facilities and specific

In practice parental preference might mean a fair opportunity to the parents to contend by evidence and argument for one school in preference to another.
Therefore, preferences had to be

reasoned to enable the parent to demonstrate that they rested on a sound foundation of accurate information and wise judgment. Lord Justice Stuart-Smith

Solicitors: Teacher Stern & Selby; Mrs Janet Relie, Aylesbury.

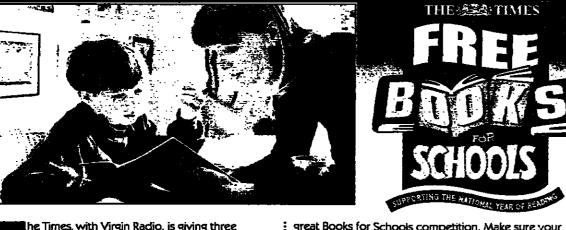
whether mainstream or special: The question was whether that by No power to hear judicial office claim

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CHANGING TIMES

Arthur v'Attorney-General Before Mr Justice Morison, Mr K. ney-General. [Judgment March I]

An employment tribunal had no jurisdiction to decide whether a black woman of West African ethnic origin had been unlawfully discriminated against on the ground of her race by an advisory committee on justices of the peace which had failed to recommend her appointment as a lay magistrate.

The advisory committee was not a qualifying body within the meaning of section 12 of the Race Relations Act 1976.

There was a lacuna in the 1976 Act and it remained for Parliament to decide whether it would be anpropriate for employment tribu-nals to be given jurisdiction over appointments to the lay magistra-

The Employment Appeal Tribunal so held when dismissing an appeal by Mrs Comfort Arthur, the applicant, from a decision of an industrial tribunal sitting at London (North) in October 1997 that it had no jurisdiction to hear her complaint of racial discrimination. Section 12 of the Race Relations

Act 1976 provides: "(1) It is unlawful for an authority or body which can confer an authorisation or qualification which is needed for, or failitates, engagement in a particular profession or trade to discriminate against a person ... (b) by refusing, or deliberately omitting to grant, his application for it."

Section 75 provided that Part II of the Act, which included section 12, applied to service for purposes of a minister of the crown or gov-ernment department "other than service of a person holding a statu-

Mr Nigel Giffin for the appli-

cant; Mr David Barr for the Attorney-General. sented in the judiciary at every leveral could be said that being a magistrate was a vocation or profession

MR JUSTICE M ing the judgment of the appeal tri-bunal, said that appointments to the lay magistracy were made by the Lord Chancellor on behalf of the Crown To enable him to carry out that

duty he had appointed a number of local advisory panels who inter-viewed candidates and then made their recommendations as to their suitability for appointment. The applicant was interviewed by the Middlesex Area Advisory Committee on Justices of the Peace

but was not recommended and

was not appointed. As a result of

the manner of her interview she

was of the opinion that the committee's failure to appoint her was tainted by direct racial discrimina-The industrial tribunal was of the view that appointment to the office of justice of the peace was not the pursuit of a profession or trade within the meaning of section 12 of the 1976 Act since both those expres

sions meant the carrying on of some sort of business. The applicant appealed and the Attorney-General cross-appealed on the ground that section 75 of the Act excluded the tribunal's jurisdiction because a justice of the peace was a holder of a statutory office and Part II of the Act had no application to her complaint.

as a matter of policy, desirable that judicial appointments should be made in a manner which excluded. as far as practicable, the possibility of bias against any person based on his race, sex or disability. It was well known that the visible minorities, women, and those

It was not an easy case. It was,

with disabilities, were under-repre-

To hold that an employment tribunal had no jurisdiction to in-

quire into the circumstances under which the applicant was not recom-mended for appointment would leave open the possibility that a stereotype of a person who would make a good magistrate would perpetuate an under-representation of sections of the community.

person suitable for judicial appointment was difficult to define and there might be policy considera-tions which suggested that public scrutiny of the process in an adversarial context would or might impair its effectiveness. Thus, although the appeal tribu-nal approached the case with a mind toward construing the Act on

On the other hand, what made a.

an inclusive rather than an exclusive approach, they were inclined to accept Mr Barr's submission that any loopholes in the legislation were best left to Parliament to It seemed to the appeal tribunal that for the reasons given in Knight v Attorney-General [1979]

ICR 194), the appointment of a magistrate did not fall within section 75(2) (a) or (b). However, the fact that a magis-trate was an office holder did not of itself determine the answer to the question whether the advisory committee was a qualifying body. On that issue Knight was of no assist-

The only issue was the extent of section 12. The guidance given by the Court of Appeal in Tattari v Private Patients Plan Ltd [1998] ICR 106) was of particular assistance. Picking on some of the words of the section and seeking to fit the case into them would distort its

and that the approval of the committee was a necessary condition for appointment

There was a distinction between a committee which was sifting job applications and a qualifying body conferring an approval. In one sense both were engaged in a filtering process, ensuring that only the suitable might go for-

But looking at the section over-all, it was clear that performing a filter function was not enough. Section 12 required more.

It was directed to circumstances in which A conferred on B a qualification which would entitle B to render services for C. Where A and C were the same entity, the section would appear to be inapplicable otherwise it would apply to every selection panel.

There was no policy reason to give it a more extended reason simply to fill the gap which had been ntified in the present case. The real target of the proceed-ings should have been the Lord Chancellor. Where there was

doubt about the proper defendent when the state was involved as a de-fendant, the Attorney-General might be the properly identified re-How judicial appointments were made raised constitutional is sues. It remained for Parliament to decide whether it would be appropriate for employment tribunals to be gven jurisdiction over appoint-

ments to the lay magistracy. There was much to be said for that course The appeal would be dismissed and leave given to appeal to the Court of Appeal. Solicitors: Ms Catherine Evans:

Appeal might delay release from prison

Regina v Toney Before Lord Justice Auld. Mr Jusnce Forbes and Mr Justice David

Judgment February (2) Counsel advising on appeal against sentence in the case of relatively short sentences should be alert to the fact that in the event of the appeal not being heard until the defendant had already served much of his sentence, any reduction in semence could delay rather

than accelerate his release from The Court of Appeal, Criminal Division, so stated on the application by Dumien Leonard Toney to vary the sentence of 10 months imprisonment imposed on February 3, 1998, on the hearing of his appeal against a sentence of 13 months imposed on October 2. 1998 by Judge Beashel sitting with two justices at Dorchester Crown Court, for assault occasioning actual bodily harm, common assault and failure to surrender to custo-

Section 34A of the Criminal Jus-

tice Act 1991, as inserted by section 99 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, provides: "(3) After the prisoner has served the requisite period for the term of his sentence, the secretary of state may, subject to sec-tion 37A below, release him on ti-"(4) In this section 'the requisite

period' means ... (c) for a term of eight months or more, a period that is 60 days less than one-balf of the term." Section 37A, as inserted by section 100 of the 1998 Act provides:

"(I) A person shall not be released under section 34A(3) above unless the licence includes a condition (the curiew condition) which - (a) requires the released person to remain ... at a place for the time being ... specified ... and (b) includes requirements for securing the elec-tronic monitoring of his wherea-"(3) The curiew condition shall

the release person would (but for his release) have served one-half of Miss Kate Lumsdon, assigned

remain in force until the date when

by the Registrar of Criminal Ap-peals, for the appellant.

LORD JUSTICE AULD said that on February 3 their Lordships had allowed this appellant's appeal against sentence by reducing it from 13 to 10 months imprison-

The effect of that reduction, para-

doxically, if it stood, was that the appellant would serve konger in prison than he would have done if his appeal had not been allowed.

That resulted from the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 bringing into effect from January 28, 1999, via the Criminal Justice Act 1991. the "home curiew" scheme.

Sections 34A(3) and 37A provided that the secretary of state might release a prisoner on licence. which had to include a condition of curlew and electronic tagging, af-ter he had served the requisite period' which for a sentence of eight months imprisonment or more was 60 days less than one half of

The result of that for the appellant was that his original sentence of 13 months impassonment made him eligible for release on licence, subject to the home curiew for a period of two months, on February 17, 1999; 60 days earlier than April 17, the date at which he would have served half his sentence.

By reducing his sentence to 10 months, the date of release, after serving half that term, had been brought forward to March 2, but if was not possible to release him on home curfew before that date since 60 days was the period of compliance. While that was a comparatively

on, and did not carry with it the extra curiew, it was not what their Lordships had contemplated or intended They took the view that in those special circumstances it was proper to substitute a term of nine

months, which would enable him

short extra period to remain in pris-

to be released on February 17. The court was able to vary that lience and was not functus officio since the order had not yet been transcribed into the record of the Court of trial: see R v Cross ([1973] QB 937).

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Pastoral scheme reducing benefice properly made

Cheesman and Others v Church Comissioners

Before Lard Lloyd of Berwick, Lord Hobbouse of Woodborough and Sir Christopher Slade Judgment March 171

A pastoral scheme proposed by the Bishop of Leicester for the redistribution of parishes in part of his diocese had properly been made by the Church Commissioners under the Pastoral Measure 1983 after proceedings against the incumbent under the Incumbents (Vacation of Benefices) Measure 1977 had been discontinued, even though the scheme considerably reduced the

The Judicial Committee of the Privy Council so held by a majority. Lord Lloyd dissenting, when dis-missing an appeal by the appellants, the Reverend Ashley F. B. Cheesman, and II others against the pastoral scheme for the bene-fice and parish of the Gaulby Group made by the respondents, the Church Commissioners for

Miss Beverley Lang for the first to eleventh appellants; the twelfth appellant in person; Mr Allen Dyer for the respondents. LORD HOBHOUSE said that

the appeal raised a question of law concerning the construction and application of the Pastoral Meas-The feature of the scheme which

had given rise to the appeal was its sub-division of the single parish known as the "Gaulby Group" into

be transferred to adjoining benefices and only one of which was to renain in the Gaulby benefice of which Mr Cheesman was the in-

Such a redistribution of parishes could only be made using the powers granted by the 1983 Measure. The scheme did not exceed those powers.

Therefore, provided that the scheme was, in the words of the titie of the Measure, a scheme "designed to make better provision for the cure of souls" and the statutory procedures had been followed, the teme was one which the bishop and the commissioners were entitled to make. The consent of the incumbents was not a prerequisite.

No question of the bona fides of the pastoral committee of the dio-

They believed that the scheme did make better provision for the cure of souls in the diocese and that it was within the powers open to The appellants' attack on the

ers arose.

sion that the bishop and commissioners, in so far as they sought to reduce the size of the Gaulby Group benefice, were seeking to exercise powers which could only be (Vacation of Benefices) Measure 1977, which made provision for the vacation of the benefice, where there had been a serious breakdown of the pastoral relationship between the incumbent and his pa-

Board to the disposal of appeals from decisions of the Church Commissioners in relation to pastoral schemes had been restated in Harereaves v Church Commissioners ([1983] 2 AC 457, 460).

It was a genuine appeal process but the Board had to have in mind that the scheme had the support of responsible bodies within the Church of England which in the present case had considered and weighed the very objections being urged in support of the appeal.

If, however, it were the correct

construction of the 1983 Measure that the bishop and the commis sioners were debarred from proposing or making any scheme under that Measure in any situation where it was possible to invoke and obtain relief, albeit different relief, under the 1977 Measure, in such a situation a scheme under the 1983 Measure could not be up-

could not be sustained. First, as a matter of the construcrion of the 1983 Measure, it was a idating re-enactment with some revisions of the pre-existing legislation, in particular the Pastoral Measure 1968. It could not and should not be

ure, which was based on considerations of incompetence or inadequacy on the part of the incumbent evidenced by a serious breakdown of pastoral relations between the incumbent and the laity in a bene-

construed by reference to the pow-

fact been such a breakdown but also to whether it was attributable to deficiencies on the part of the in-

cumbent. A declaration of the vacation of the benefice, that is, the total depri-vation of the incumbent of his freehold, could only be justified if both those criteria had been satisfied. That structure made the implementation of the 1977 procedures cumbersome and uncertain in out-

and 1983 Measures were different: the criteria were different. The former did not qualify the Any scheme proposed or made under the 1983 Measure had to be justified under the terms of that Measure. If it was justified, it should be upheld; if it was not, it

come. The powers under the 1977

could not be upheld. The appellants' submission was also open to objection on another ground. Mr Cheesman had contestthe proceedings brought ure after the quashing of his convic-tion for an offence of indecency: see Cheesman v DPP (1992) OB 83).

It could not be right as a matter of law that the mere opinion of the carried through to their conclusion ought to, but not necessarily would have resulted in the vacation of Mr the bishop from proposing a scheme under the 1983 Measure if he genuinely believed it could be justified under that Measure; nor could it preclude the commissionwere satisfied under the 1983 Measure that it should, on its merits, be

The appellants had also submitted that any interpersonal factor should be wholly excluded from the assessment of the merits of any proposed scheme under the 1983 commissioners had taken into acunt the personal characteristic of Mr Cheesman, they had exceeded their powers because such considerations feli exclusively within

If the sole purpose of and the sole change made by a scheme was the vacation of a benefice because of objections to the incumbe scheme could not be upheld. A broader perspective was required by the 1983 Measure both in relation to the problems it addressed

and the changes it made.

The scheme under appeal did both those things. The legal argument, if it was to assist the appeal and the scheme that the scheme the scheme that the lants, had to be made good at the level of saying that any scheme un-der the 1983 Measure had to be justified in terms which were wholly neutral as to the identity of any give en incumbent: the scheme's justi cation had to exclude any reference incumbents of the benefices affect-

The difficulties about that subfy the 1983 Measure and its 1968 not supported by the language of

The criterion to be applied was

sion for the cure of souls in the dio-

there was a different power given by the 1977 Measure exercisable on different criteria. For the exercise of the powers granted by the 1983 Measure the criterion was the more general one and did not include the exclusion contended for.

Another argument sought to re-sist the power of the bishop to concern himself with the cure of souls within a parish against the wisher bishoo who had the cure of souls throughout the diocese and the sole and exclusive cure of souls that the incumbent had within the parish was under the bishon. Their Lordships therefore reject-

ed the legal arguments of the appel-lants. However, it was still necessary to examine the scheme and the reasons given by the commis-sioners for making it to see wheth-er it was on its merits justified under the 1983 Measure. The effect of the scheme was not

equivalent to vacating Mr Chees-man's benefice. He would be left with a benefice, although seriously educed in population.

His Lordship considered wheth-

er the scheme should be upheld on its merits and continued that the scheme was one which could only be made under the 1983 Measure. The rearrangement of parishes could only be achieved under that

The causes of the pastoral prob-lems addressed were ones which fell exclusively within the 1983 Measure and would simply have

dings under the 1977 Measure. The fundamental problem was the earlier combination of incom-patible parishes and the disputes between parishioners and the irre-

served to defeat any continued 000-

trievable divisions to which that combination had given rise. The attack on the validity of the scheme failed and the appeal should be dismissed.

In conclusion, however, their Lordships wished again to make clear that in their opinion the 1983 Measure could not properly be invoked as a device where the real purpose was to deprive an incum-bent of his benefice or to punish him or where it was solely intend-ed to remedy a breakdown of the pastoral relationship between the incumbent and his parishioners by means covered by the 1977 Meas-ure, that is, the vacation of his bene-

The present scheme was not such a scheme. It property fell with-in the scope of the 1983 Measure and was properly made under it. Their Lordships' decision should not be understood as sanc tioning any disregard of the statuto-ry safeguards to which the incumbent was entitled under the 1977

LORD LLOYD, dissenting, said that the 1983 Measure was designed to deal with the structure of parishes and benefices within a dio-cese and their relationship to each

leasure where his benefice was to

Nowhere in the Measure, or in

Intermediary's default no excuse

called "interpersonal reasons". that is, a breakdown of the pastoral relationship between an incumbent and his parishioners, were relevant in formulating a pastoral scheme, yet they were the reasons on which the commissioners re-

If cases of pastoral breakdown could be cured by a scheme under the 1983 Measure there would have been no need for the 1977 Measure It could always have been said that the "better provision for the cure of souls" within the parish required the incumbent to be separated from those of his parishioners who opposed him.

The 1983 Measure was never intended to be used for such a purpose. It would provide a most unfortunate precedent.

The scheme could not be justified on the historical, geographical or sociological grounds to which the commissioners referred in their statement of reasons.

The only reason could be the pastoral breakdown between Mr Cheesman and his parishioners. for which the statutory remedy was an inquiry under the 1977

It was not a proper use of the 1983 Measure to divide the parish in two so as to remove from his care those of his parishioners who were most dissatisfied with his

Solicitors: Ellis-Fermor & Negus, Nottingham: Mr Nigel John-

Protecting legal negotiations

Before Mr Justice Luddic

Dudgment February 241 Statements by either party to a dispute, touching on the strength or weakness of either side's case, and any valuation of either party's rights, went to the heart of any attempt to compromise litigation. which parties must be free to discuss without fear of their words coming back to haunt them in

court proceedings. Mr Justice Laddie so held in the Chancery Division, in striking out, as an abuse of process, the writ brought by the plaintiff. Unilever plc, against the defendant, Procter and Gamble Company, seeking a declaration that the sale or manufacture of Persil Performance Tablets would not constitute an in-fringement of any of the claims of the defendant's European Patent (UK) No 0343069

Mr Geoffrey Hobbs, QC and Mr Daniel Alexander for the plainuill: Mr Simon Thorley, QC and Mr Colin Birss for the defendant.

MR JUSTICE LADDIE said that at a meeting on May 20, 1993. in the context of ongoing and high without prejudice basis, the defendant had made a claim of right and threatened the plaintiff with proceedings for infringement of the

It was common ground that the plaintiff's motive for issuing the

Unilever ple v Procter and tempt to give it locus to intervene in other proceedings before the Euro-pean Patent Office. Scope of the rule

The cornerstone of Mr Hobbs' contention, that only admissions were protected, was Muller v Lins-ley and Martimer (The Times December 8, 1984) where Lord Justice Hoffmann, citing Lord Griffiths in Rush and Tompkins v Greater London Council ([1989] AC 1280, 1300): "the underlying purpose of the without prejudice] rule ... is to protect a litigant from being embar-rassed by any admission made purely in an attempt to reach a settlement" had said:

"The public policy basis of [that] rule was to prevent anything said in without prejudice negotiations heing relied on as an admission." It appeared to his Lordship that Mr Hobbs had succumbed to the tendency to treat the language of eminent judges as if entitled to the meticulous verbal analysis frequently deployed in construing a

Wider language had been used in other Court of Appeal judg-ments: Walker v Wilsher (1889) 23 QBD 335, 337); Cutts v Head ([1984] Ch 290, 306) and Calderbank v Calderbank (11976) Fam 93, 105). an assertion of right was not an ad-

later litigation. But an assertion of right by one party might be dependent on an admission by the other. It would be impossible to divide up discussions in that way, and if later litigation, the resulting pic-

ion, so could be relied upon t

cept of partial disclosure of privi-

leged documents was as implausi-ble as the curate's egg. As Lord Justice Oliver had said in Cuts v Head, the starting point in deciding the scope of the without prejudice rule was the public policy behind it, the desire to encourage settlements, an early step in any negotiation would be for each party to lay its cards on the table. The rights holder would describe his rights and say why he thought them breached: absent pro-tection by the rule, that would be

the triggering event for the start of ngs by his opponent. Nothing could be more calculated to dis-courage a rights holder from seeking a compromise. However, even if Muller had the restrictive effect advanced by Mr Hobbs, his Lordship would still hold the defendant's statements protected from use by the

Past encouragement of settlements had been of a hands-off variety, but the current climate was very different. Although the new Civil Procedure Rules were not yet in force, they represented the cur-rent policy aimed at making litigation a last resort, for example, by having regard, when awarding costs, to the conduct of the parties before proceedings began as well (5)(a) and 44.5(3) [coming into force

Lifting the veil Apart from one or both parties to without prejudice discussions electing to waive privilege, the veil could be lifted by the court:

fide: as pointed out by Lord Justice Hoffmann in Forster v Friedland (unreported, November 10, 1992, CA Transcript 1052):

munications which are genuinely aimed at a settlement to avoid litiration" and "the value of the rule would be seriously impaired if its protection could be removed [for] mything less than unambiguous

considerations which overrode those encouraging the settlement of disputes: for example, if the without prejudice nature of discussions being used to cover some form of reprehensible behaviour.

and Tompkins (at pl300D): "The court will not permit the phrase exclude an act of bankruptcy: see In re Daintrey, Ex parte Holt ([1893] 2 QB 116), nor to suppress a threat if an offer is not accepted:

It appeared to his Lordship that where, as here, one party was relying on some wrongdoing by the other, in order to show some public interest which outweighed that of fostering non-litigious compromise of disputes, the onus was on him: and that he must show that the

far as it retied on nothing more defendant during discussions, could not be used as the basis of declaratory proceedings.

Another

The rule covers only those com-

(b) if there were public policy

As Lord Griffiths said in Rush see Kitkat v Sharp ((1882) 48 LT

So here, the plaintiff's case, in so

than a claim of right made by the Solicitors: Bird & Bird; SimDownes Manor Properties Ltd v Bank of Namibia and

Before Lord Justice Robert Walker and Lord Justice Tuckey [Judgment January 19]

A lawyer outside England chosen by a plaintiff as an intermediary to give instructions to an English lawyer who failed to supply adequate witness statements to comply with an unless order was subject to the same policy considerations as policable to lawvers qualified and practising in England. Hence the plaintiff could not to be excused on account of the default of its own chosen intermediary in

some other jurisdiction.

The Court of Appeal so stated when dismissing an appeal by Downes Manor Properties Ltd against the dismissal by Mr Justice Colman in the Oueen's Bench Division Commercial Court on November 15, 1996 of its action against the Bank of Namibia and ernor, for \$2,917.015 from the bank under a letter of guarantee on the ground of failure to comply with an unless order relating to exchange of witness statements which had prescribed a period of

Mr Jeffrey Burke, QC and Mr

ny: Mr Bankim Thanki for the re-

LORD JUSTICE ROBERT WALKER said that Downes realis-tically accepted, in line with the guidance in Hytec Information Systems Ltd v Coventry City Council (1997) 1 WLR 1666), that an unless order was an order of last resort and was a party's last chance to put his case in order.

Downes unreservedly accepted that it was in default. Nevertheless Mr Burke submitted that the court's discretion must be exercised in a proportionate way and in such a way that the punishment fit-

He suggested that failures by lawyers outside England should be regarded as governed by different policy considerations from those applicable to lawyers qualified and practising in England. His Lordship noted that

Downes initially instructed a London firm, Eversheds Jaques & Lewis as it then was, as its solicitors. Those instructions were confirmed by Capco Trust, who were the Isle of Man managers provid-ing nominee directors for Downes, the effective source of instruc tions appeared to have been lawyers in South Africa, in particular Mr Brian Lebos, a Johannesburg

preme Court to be joined in pro-ceedings by Geoffrey Thomas Mye-

against Dortex International

Order 15, rule 6 provides: "(2)

Subject to the provisions of this

rule, at any stage of the proceed-

ings in any cause or matter the

court may on such terms as it

thinks just and either of its own mo-

tion or on application ... (b) order any of the following persons to be

added as a party, namely ... (ii) any person between whom and any party to the cause or matter there may exist a question or issue aris-

ing out of or relating to or connect-

ed with any relief or remedy claimed in the cause or matter which in the opinion of the court it

would be just and convenient to de

termine as between him and that

party as well as between the par-

Mr David A. Stockdale, QC and

ties to the cause or matter."

Non-compliance with an unless tions and he appeared to have give order was always a very serious en prudent and correct advice to Mr Lebos about the inadequacy of matter to which the court would show indulgence only if satisfied that a party's default was some thing beyond that party's control. But the discretion should be exerpised flexibly and should not be lim-

in Hyrec ([1997] 1 WLR 1666, 1675-6) Lord Justice Ward had said: "Ordinarily this court should not distinguish between the litigant himself and his advisors ... The basis of the rule is that orders of the court must be observed and the court is entitled to expect that its officers and counsel who appear before it are more observant of that duty even than the litigant him-

hed or circumscribed by condi-

There were exceptional circumstances in which the court had made a distinction. But the good sense and justice of the general principle was, in his Lordship's udement, obvious.

His Lordship did not see that any particular criticism could be made of the part played by the solic-itor from Eversheds Jaques & Lewis who was on the record at the relevant time and the officer of the court within the meaning outlined in Lord Justice Ward's judgment. He seemed to have had the great-

the witness statements tendered by Mr Lebos. It appeared to his Lordship that Mr Lebos was not in the position of a solicitor on the record but was in

the position of an intermediary. and the chosen intermediary, of Downes, for giving instructions to the English lawyers. If a party was not to be excused on account of the default of its English lawyers, still less, it seemed to

on account of its own chosen intermediary in some other jurisdiction. His Lordship was not persuaded of the exceptional circumstances put forward by Downes. Nor was he persuaded that dismissal of the tim was a disproportionate sanc-

his Lordship, was it to be excused

It was quite plain that under the approach which the court now took, any non-compliance with an unless order was a matter for which the court would be very slow to show indulgence, even if there was not a track record of past noncompliance extending over many

months or years.

The appeal would be dismissed. Lord Justice Tuckey agreed. Solicitors: Broadbridge Grimes:

In his Lordship's judgment the

dispute between the plaintiff and the defendant could be effectively

determined and adjudicated in

AXA's absence. The judge had cor-

rectly considered whether it was

just and convenient to determine

Approaching victims' statements with care

Regina v 11 (Indecent assault) Before Lord Justice Schiemann. Mr Justice Hughes and Judge

Stephens, QC Undersent February 9 A sentencing judge who was given statements made by victims of a criminal offence sening out its eflects on them, as perceived by the maker of the statement, had to anproach them with some care as they were necessarily untested by hove a defendant to attempt to in-

The Court of Appeal, Criminal Division, so held in allowing an appeal by H against sentences totalline nine years iniprisonment im-Criminal Court by Judge Coombefor the appellant.

ing the judgment of the court, said that the appellant had pleaded guilty to 11 counts of indecent assault relating to six different girls, some related to him. The offences

six and 13 guilty effectively at the first oppor-tunity which was especially important since none of the victims, although now grown up, was forced to re-live their experiences in court. statements made by five of the six

Mr Charles Bott, assigned by the Registrar of Criminal Appeals.

when the girls were aged between

fects, as seen by them, that those of-

MR JUSTICE HUGHES, givtook place between 1965 and 1983.

In mirigation, he had pleaded

cated that the complainants had been considerably affected.

One statement maker attributed

probably more indicative of anger

fences had had on them. They indi-

Some had coped better than others but some clearly felt that the abuse had not only made a scrious impact on their own lives but had made them over-protective towards their children. Those were the kind of hidden consecutive caused by abuse of that kind.

towards the appellant rather than medical fact, it was not wholly irrel-Such statements had to be approached with proper balance. They necessarily reflected one side

the stillbirth of her child to her ex-

Their Lordships would have been very surprised if the experi-enced judge in this case had not approached them in that way, al-

> Counsel for the appellant had cited two cases R v Sweeney ([1998] 2 Cr App R (S) 43) and R v Densley S ([1998] 2 Cr App R (S) 17) in support of his argument that the sentencing judge had begun at a point too high in the sentencing scale if he was to give full weight to the plea of guilty. Their Lordships agreed. They were satisfied that the proptotal sentence was one of six years imprisonment and the appeal would be allowed to that ex-

> though he did not perhaps make it as clear as he might the limited ex-

tent to which the stillbirth was rele-

Myers v Dortex International Before Lord Justice Hirst and Lord

Judgment February 18] Where an employer's current insur-er was conducting the defence of an action brought by an employee for personal injuries arising out of two accidents, the first of which occurred during the currency of an insurance with a previous insurer, it was not appropriate to join the preurer as a second defend

ant so that the judge could resolve the insurers' respective liabilities. Were the previous insurer to be ioined, the plaintiff would have to The trial judge could be expected to give a full reasoned judgment from which the insurers would be

able to determine how liability

should be apportioned between The Court of Appeal so held dismissing an appeal by the prospec-tive second defendant, AXA Provin-

Previous insurer should not be joined Mr Timothy Smith for AXA; Mr Tim Horlock, QC and Mr Richard A. Harsley for Dortex; the plaintiff cial Ltd, an insurance company, from the refusal by Mrs Justice Steele on October 21, 1998 of their application under Order 15, rule did not appear and was not repre-

LORD JUSTICE BUXTON said the plaintiff claimed to have suf-fered two accidents at work which

had injured his back. When the first accident had occurred in January 1992, AXA had been the defendant's insurers. By the time of the second accident in June 1993, the defendant had insured with Lloyd's underwriters who had taken charge of the de-AXA was contractually liable to

ability to the plaintiff arising out of the 1992 accident. Despite a request from AXA, the plaintiff had refused to take out separate actions The judge had dismissed AXA's application, holding in the exercise of her discretion that it would not

be appropriate or right for AXA to

be joined as second defendant to

the plaintiff's action.

indemnify the defendant for any li-

the issue raised by AXA in the course of the trial of the plaintiff's AXA's application was objection able in principle because of the harmful effect joinder would have on the conduct of the trial. The plaintiff was entitled to know what case he had to meet on causation. but if AXA's application succeeded. the plaintiff would have to meet

two conflicting cases on causation. LORD JUSTICE HIRST said the judge hearing the plaintiff's ac-tion could be expected in accordance with modern practice to give a full and reasoned judgment from which the insurers would be able to determine the issue of causation and apportionment of liability.

Solicitors: Berrymans Lace

Manchester; Slater

European Law Report Luxembourg Procurer of insurance for customers exempt from value-added tax

Card Protection Plan Ltd v Commissioners of Customs and Excise

Before P. J. G. Kapteyn, President of Chamber and Judges G. Hirsch. G. F. Mancini, H. Ragnemalm and R. Schintgen Advocate General N. Fennelly

Case C-349/96

(Opinion June 1), 1998) Dudgment February 25 Insurance transactions which were exempt from value-added tax, included the activities of a person who, not being himself an insurer. procured cover for his customers through a block policy with an in-

surer who assumed the risks in-It was contrary to Community law for member states to restrict the scope of the exemption for insurance transactions to nersons authorised under national law to car-

ry out the activity of insurer. The Sixth Chamber of the Court of Justice of the European Communines so held, inter alia, on a reference by the House of Lords under article 177 of the EC Treaty for a preliminary ruling on questions re-lating to Sixth Council Directive 77/38/EEC of May 17, 1977 on the harmonisation of the laws of the member states relating to turnover (taxes common system of valueadded tax: uniform basis of assessment (C) 1977 L145 pl).

Card Protection Plan Ltd offered holders of credit cards, on payment of a sum, a plan intended to protect them against financial loss and in convenience resulting from the loss or theft of their eards and other items such as car keys and pass-ports. CPP obtained block cover from an insurance company to which it paid premiums, and its customers were mentioned in the

The services offered by CPP. which corresponded to the insurance cover described in the schedule to the policy, included payment of an indeninity in the event of fraudulent use of cards and other indemnities such as the provision of an air ticket home in the event of loss of cards. The plan also included other

policy as the assured.

services such as assistance in obtaining replacement credit cards in the event of loss, and the maintenance of a computerised record of customers' credit cards. CPP was assessed to VAT on the ground, inter alia, that the plan comprised a package of services. all taxable, turning on the maintenance by CPP of a register of card

loss notification service in order to avoid any further liability for fraudulent use in the event of loss. CPP contested the decision on the ground that its supplies were. wholly or largely exemp Article 2 of the Sixth Directive

numbers and the provision of a

provides: "The following shall be subject to value added tax: (1) the supply of goods or services effected ry of the country by a taxable per-son acting as such..."

Article 13(B) provides: "Without

prejudice to other Community pro-visions, member states shall ex-

empt the following under conditions which they shall lay down for the purpose of ensuring the correct and straightforward application of the exemptions and of preventing amuse: (a) insurance and reinsurance transactions... The annex to First Council Directive 73/239/EEC of July 24, 1973 on the coordination of laws, regulations and administrative provi-

pursuit of the business of direct insurance other than life insurance (OJ 1973 L.28, p3), as amended by Council Directive \$4/641/EEC of December 10, 1984 (OJ 1984 L339, p21), provides: "A Classification of risks according to classes of insurance ... Assistance for persons who get into difficulties while travelling, while away from home or while away

from their permanent residence.

ber of the Court of Justice held:

In its judgment the Sixth Cham-

The first assestion referred was

whether services such as those sup-

plied by CPP to its customers con-

sions relating to the taking-up and

stituted "insurance transactions" within article 13(B)(a) of the Sixth Directive, and whether "insurance in article (3(B)(a) included the class es of activity, in particular "assist-ance," listed in the annex to Directive 73/229 as amended.

The Sixth Directive did not define "insurance transactions" nor was "insurance" defined in Directive 73/239. However, the essentials of an insurance transaction, as generally understood, were that the insurer undertook, in return for prior pay

ment of a premium, to provide the insured, in the event of materialisa-

tion of the risk covered, with the

service agreed when the contract was concluded. It was not essential that the service the insurer undertook to provide in the event of loss consisted in the payment of a sum of money: it could also take the form of the provision of assistance in cash or in kind of the types listed in the annex to Directive 73/239, as amended.

in the directive on insurance or in the Sixth Directive. CPP acknowledged that it merely promised its customers to do what was necessary for insurance to be provided to them by a third party, and that it did not itself undertake to provide insurance cover.

it was to be noted that CPP was

There was no reason for the in-

ording to whether it appeared

respretation of "insurance" to differ

the holder of a block policy under which its customers were the in-

sured. It procured for its customers, for payment, in its own name and on its own account, to the extent of the ance policy, insurance cover by

Such a supply of services consti-uted an insurance transaction within article 13(B)(a). sions in article 13 were to be construed strictly, the expression "in surance transactions was broad enough in principle to include the ocovision of insurance cover by a taxable person who was not him self an insurer but, in the context of a block policy, procured such cover for his customers by making use of the supplies of an insurer who as-

sumed the risk insured.

the criteria for deciding whether a transaction comprising several ele ments was to be regarded as a single supply or as two or more supplies to be assessed separately. Having regard to the diversity of commercial operations, it was not possible to give exhaustive guidance on how to approach that problem correctly in all cases. However, taking into account.

first, that it followed from article

2(I) of the Sixth Directive that every

supply of a service was normally to

be regarded as distinct and inde-

The second question concerned

pendent and, second, that a supply which comprised a single service from an economic point of view should not be artificially split, so as not to distort the functioning of the VAT system, the essential features of the transaction had to be ascertained in order to determine wheth-

er the customer was being sup-plied with several distinct principal services or with a single serv-There was a single supply in par-ticular in cases where one or more elements constituted the principal service while other elements were ancillary services which shared the tax treatment of the principal serv-

means of better enjoying the princi-The fact that a single price was charged was not decisive if, notwithstanding the payment of a sin-gle price, circumstances indicated that the customers intended to purchase two distinct services, namely an insurance supply and a card registration service, it would be necessary to identify the part of the single price which related to the in-surance supply, which would re-

A service was ancillary to a prin-

cinal service if it constituted for cus-

main exempt in any event. The simplest possible method of calculation or assessment should

The final ouestion was whether

it was compatible with article 13(B)(a) for the exemption for insurance transactions to be restricted to persons permitted to carry on insurance business under the law of the member state.

ed, inter alia: "(1) The provision of insurance and reinsurance by persons permitted, in accordance with nies Act 1982, to carry on insurance The Sixth Directive was based on the principle of fiscal neutrality, and that principle precluded, other than in cases not presently rele-vant, lawful and unlawful transac-

At the material time, section 17

of and Group 2 of Schedule 6 to the Value Added Tax Act 1983 exempt-

zamt Donaueschingen (The Times July 2, 1998; [1998] QB 883; [1998] ECR I-3369, paragraph 22). The United Kingdom Government submitted that restricting the exemption to transactions of au-thorised insurers was justified in view of the introductory sentence

tions being treated differently: see Case C-283/95 Fischer v Finan-

However, that provision made no distinction between lawful and unlawful transactions in national law, and it followed that those two categories of transaction had to be reated in the same fashion.

of article 13(B) of the Sixth Direc-

On those grounds the European

l Article 13(B)(a) of Sixth Council Directive 77/388/EEC was to be interpreted as meaning that a taxable person, not being an insurer, who, in the context of a block policy of which he was the holder, procured for his customers, who were the insured, insurance cover from covered, performed an insurance

transaction within the meaning of that provision. The term "insurance" in that pro-vision extended to the categories of Assistance listed in the categories of Council Directive 73/239/EEC as amended by Council Directive 84/641/EEC.

2 It was for the national court to determine, in the light of the criteria stated in the judgment, whether transactions such as those at issue were to be regarded for the purposes of VAT as comprising two independent supplies, namely an ex-empt insurance supply and a taxable card registration service, or whether one of those two supplies was the principal supply to which the other was ancillary, so that it received the same tax treatment as

3 Article 13(B)(a) was to be interpreted as meaning that a member state could not restrict the scope of the exemption for insurance transactions exclusively to supplies by insurers who were authorised by national law to pursue the activity of insur-

the principal supply.

BOOKS

The price of remaining loyal unto death

eter Taylor, who has reported on Northern Ire-land for the BBC for 25 years, is fascinated by killers This is his second riveting offi cial history of a group who fill the right-minded with horror and dread. Like its predeces-Provisional IRA, this is based on a BBC television series which relied heavily on interviews with paramilitaries past and present. But though Provos was no less absorbing. Loyalists is far more valuable.

Innumerable people have written with sympathy of the IRA: few have made the effort to understand the viewpoint of their loyalist counterparts, who are poor at projecting the falsely romantic image in which republicans specialise. Furthermore, because of the values of the Ulster Protestant culture from which they spring, loyalists tend to be more honest than republicans. so for the most part, Taylor's interviews elicit truth rather

was part of the war and that war had to be fought." It is a re-**DUDLEY EDWARDS** pellent statement, but a straightforward one. By Peter Taylor Loyalist paramilitaries see themselves as patriots who



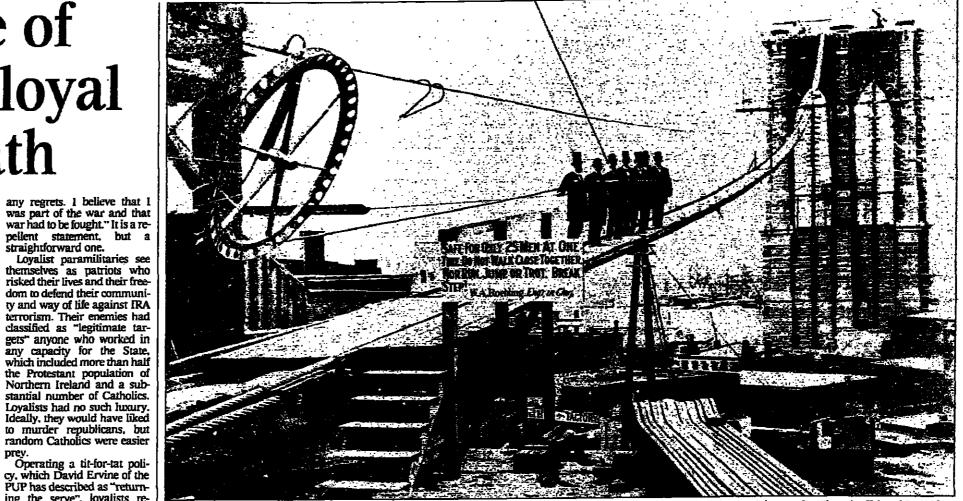
Take, for instance, Billy Hutchinson, one of two Assembly members of the Progressive Unionist Party (PUP), frontmen for the Ulster Volunteer Force. Asked if he regretted his part in the murder of two half-brothers, shot dead for being Catholics, he responded: "No. I don't have

PUP has described as "returning the serve", loyalists responded to republican outrag-es often with sickening brutali-ty. Even the Shankill Butch-ers, who tortured innocent Catholics to death, claimed in self-justification that it was their job to terrify the Catholic community into forcing the IRA to stop the war. Loyalist paramilitaries believe they played a noble part in defeat-ing violent republicanism and in pubs and clubs in Protestant working-class ghettos they have thousands of fans who hall them as heroes.

There is more reason to believe that their main achievement was to increase Catholic support for the IRA and help republicans win the propagar-da war. Still, their leaders have learnt much from their enemies. Like them, they talk of peace while they cling to their weapons, terrorise their communities and operate crim-

et many loyalist mur-derers started out as idealists. Billy Giles, a decent young man who mur-dered a Catholic friend in re-venge for the shooting of a young woman, served a life sentence and later hanged himself. In his suicide note he wrote: "Please don't let any kid suffer the history I have. I didn't deserve it and they certainly don't." With sympathy and skill, Peter Taylor shows us yet again how Northern Ireland turned ordinary people

Ruth Dudley Edwards's Faithful Tribe: The Loyal Institutions will be published by HarperCollins in June.



City in progess: John Roebling's monumental Brooklyn Bridge was completed in 1883; New York's five boroughs were finally consolidated in 1898

otham by its girth may frighten poten-tial readers away Take a bite coffee table adornment. Either occurrence would be deplora-ble. The book, at 1,416 pages, is a magnificent, engrossing and informative read. It is meant to be read slowly, if the reader is to absorb the enormous of the Apple store of information in this scholarly yet vibrant book. Gotham tells the story of

New York's former mayor Edward I. Koch

revels in a monumental history of his native city

talk faster and think faster. you are a New Yorker. Gotham traces the city's his-

tory from its beginning to the consolidation of the five separate jurisdictions - Manhattan, Staten Island, Brooklyn. Queens and the Bronx - that were joined to form New York City in 1898. During a ceremo ny that I attended as mayor opening the first teleport on Staten island back in 1985, I declared that island to be the centre of the universe. People the world over have referred to New York as the Imperial City, the centre of world finance, culture and communications. It is sui generis and is Augustus Caesar, All roads and air routes lead to New York City.

What will shock some readers is that during the American Revolutionary War, New York City was a hotbed of Toryism. In 1785 the city's population was roughly 24,000. It is now seven and a half million. More than half the population fled as the battle for New York City was shaping up during the years 1774 to 1776, when it was captured by British General Howe. The Tories returned with a force of 50,000 and "gathered behind British lines in and around New York City by 1782". The city, because of

GOTHAM A History of New York City to 1898

By Edwin G. Burrows and Mike Wallace



its support for the English monarchy, was called the "Gi-braltar of North America".

How surprising it is to learn that before Lincoln's executive order emancipating the slaves, it was British General Clinton in 1779 who issued a proclamation promising "every Negro who shall desert the Rebell Standdard full security to follow within these lines any Occupation which he shall think Proper". They came and formed the Royal African Regiment, the Ethiopian Regiment and the Black Brigade in sup-port of the English. When we won the war and Cornwallis surrendered to George Washington, 40,000 Tories went into exile, overwhelmingly to Canada, as did 4,000 freed slaves. George Washington commanded that those Negroes remaining in New York City be returned to their former owners and slavery.

Beginning in 1795, New York became a major mercantile centre. At the turn of the century, it could claim that it had more banks than any other city in America. In those days, we were the capital of the United States as well as the capital of the State of New York. In 1789, the state moved its capital to Albany and in 1790 the federal capital was

moved to Philadelphia. New York City's new City Hall, started in 1803 and finished in 1812, was at the northern edge of the city — then at Chambers Street Since the city was not expected to grow further, the front of the building was built of marble and to save money the rear, which no one was expected to observe, was surfaced with brick. I spent 12 years working in that architectural masterpiece as mayor of this gem of a city and personally appreciated its splendid interior and history. It cost \$500,000 when built, twice the original estimate — a

Another great story in Goth-am is how Manhattan came to be the centre of the current city with its five boroughs. It is told cient detail to make it an endents, particularly in Brooklyn which was then a city on its own, did not want to be drawn into Manhattan's corrupt politics: there were several charter consolidations approved by voters and disapproved by the state legislature at the request of Brooklyn. But reason prevailed: Brooklyn couldn't expand in population because it had no additional water supplies; Manhattan had enough water "to support four million people, or a million more than the combined population of both Brooklyn

and New York". New York City is still the beacon light for all those seeking a better life who believe they can't achieve it at home whether that home is in the 🕻 United States or elsewhere. Not everyone who comes here makes it, but if they do they know, as the song goes, they can make it anywhere.

Mike Wallace is currently working on a second volume. which I hope will take us from 1897, when consolidation was signed into law, to the current be around to read Wallace's assessments of my mayoralty. What's extraordinary is the fascination that the rest of the world has for New York City and its mayors, warts and all.

Edward I. Koch was New York's Mayor from 1977 to 1989.



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War wounds reopened by television's gaze

dismissed as fiction that it is a small wonder to find its employees increasingly attempting the real thing. With its sudden agendas inflated personalities and imperative to delete ambiguity in favour of narrative, the television documentary in particular would seem an

New York City, beginning with the acquisition of Man-

hattan Island by the Dutch

from the Lenape Indians in 1626. The city founded as a

trading post" was destined to become a city of deal-makers, a city of commerce, a City of

Capital," say the authors, Edwin G. Burrows, Professor

of History at Brooklyn College

and Mike Wallace, Professor

of History at John Jay College

The name Gotham, often

used to describe New York

City, always conjured up for

me the picture of a giant, magnificent, yet dark and foreboding city. I learnt that image was foreign to the facts. Gotham was the name given

to Manhattan by Washington

Irving who, describing New

York in a collection of essays.

referred to it as the "antient

city of Gotham" which means

"Goats' Town" in Anglo-Sax-

on. There is today a village in

Nottinghamshire by that

name. Gotham was known as "a place of fable, its inhabitants proverbial for their folly".

That description may fit us

today, but we are what we are

Having been born in the

Bronx, I am one of the less

than 50 per cent of New York-

ers living in the city who was

born there. Since first running for elective office back in 1962,

I have said that being a New

Yorker is a state of mind. If, af-

ter living there for six months you find that you walk faster.

and proud of it.

of Criminal Justice.

ideal subject for a novel. As its title implies. A For-eign Country is about the past and its effects on the present. Its heroine. Daphne, is an eccentric, curmudgeonly old lady who lives in the family's decaying beach house on the English coast. Disappointed by her husband, who never fulfilled the promise of early brilliance, she has, like many women of her generation, fo-cused her ambition on her

younger son, Oliver. A golden boy from birth, Oliver is now a television documentary maker, currently making a story out of civil un-rest in a breakaway republic of the former Soviet Union. Divorced, he has a pretty but sil-ly girlfriend, Rachel, who wants to make a documentary of her own about Britain's deportation of Italians during the Second World War. Most of these supposed "enemy aliens". who were arbitrarily selected, died when the boat that was transporting them was sunk. One of those responsible for the selection was Daphne.

AMANDA CRAIG

A FOREIGN COUNTRY By Francine Stock Chatto & Windus, £14.99 ISBN 0 7011 6856 0



Stock writes with the cool intelligence tinged with the sym-pathy and humour that made her, deservedly, an admired television journalist - she is now a presenter of Radio 4's Front Row. In her comprehension of how members of a middle class family can fail to communicate, her tone is close to that of Penelope Lively. She is good at conveying the way women, both young and old, negotiate with the world. Rachel's assessment of her career prospects once she is over 30 spring from the same shabby pragmatism as that of Oliver's translator, Niki, who allows him to have sex with her in exchange for a bath in his

Daphne's merciful oblivion as to quite how much her adored son dislikes her is what gives A Foreign Country its sharpest edge. Marginalised from her own life by her wich to render disorder order. wish to render disorder orderly, Daphne extends a hospitality as automatic as it is without savour. Her editing of the hu-man and ambiguous is linked in this double narrative to that of her son Oliver, manipulated abroad by a different political agenda. "Television is bound to simplify," Rachel observes, brightly. What gets left out of the story is the place "where people dare and bleed and

here are many in televi-sion who should envy this elegant, well-written and exemplary debut, not least for its light touch regard-ing the medium's tawdry aspects. Yet it reads like something which has been willed, as an achievement, rather than grown irresistibly and organically out of some inner apprehension of the world it describes. Daphne's fear of feeling (and failing) seems to be shared by the author.

Be bolder next time, please. It is not by intelligence but by passion that the true novelist emerges; without passion and its terrifying risk of making the author look a fool, fiction. like television, disappears into

How the mighty fall

By Charles L. Black Jr Yale University Press, £10.95 ISBN 0 300 07954 0

bargain then and now.

THE FASHIONABLE language of impeachment has led one Tory MP foolishly to describe Jack Straw's recent weekend off as a high crime and misdemeanour. This book, published 25 years ago to coincide with Nixon's fall, discusses the process and the discusses the process and the law of presidential impeachment. As a plain analysis of complex issues too often overlaid with factional politics, it is succinct and raises fascinating questions of legal interpretation of the relevant constitutional provisions which, strictly applied, could have led to the impeachment

of Kennedy for the Bay of Pigs. IN MY END IS MY BEGINNING By James Mackay Mainstream, £20

ISBN 1840180587 MONARCHS are more regularly executed than imregularly executed than impeached. This derivative life of Mary Queen of Scots is regularly confusing and contradictory as to the motives of the conflicting personalities and policies of European princes and the self-serving Scottish nobility, brutally intent on their own positions. Mary's progress to the block is traced in the context of complex Anglo-Franco-Scottish re-lations and the religious zealot-

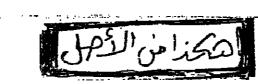
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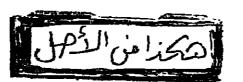


ry of the Reformation. Benignexculpatory of Mary. Mackay presents her as betrayed by princes, prelates, politicians and the implacable Earl of Moray, her own

FEET OF CLAY By Roddy Wright HarperCollins, £12.99 ISBN 0 00 274016 8 RODDY WRIGHT, the former Bishop of Argyll and the Isles who resigned in 1996, plays things planissimo, in contrast to the press who, when they discovered that he had run off with a divorced woman, and the existence of his teenage son, raised a fortissimo hue and cry in pursuit.
It's a discreet, dutiful book of
the mildest autobiographical
interest. Wright maintains his faith, doesn't want to change the Church, accepts the law of celibacy in the priesthood, so has nothing to feel but guilt and nothing to say but sorry. He has no bones to pick except with the ravening media. So what's new? Nothing.

IAIN FINLAYSON





BOOKS

REGARDING our Diary item last week on the provenance of Bunbury in The Importance of Being Earnest, Julia Edwards writes: "Perhaps the young hero of Oscar Wilde's play invented a friend called Bumbury in order to exercise his 'irresistible excuse to slip off into the country because he had visited, or wished to visit, the real Bunbury in south Cheshire — a village with singular attractions well known to anyone who visits. or is lucky enough to live there." No prizes for guessing from which village n south Cheshire Ms Edwards writes.

****** 18 18 19g

THE new £30,000 Samuel Johnson Prize for Non-Fiction, sponsored by an anony-mous businessman, has a dis-tinct media and political air about it. James Naughtie of Today is to be the first chair-man and Cherie Booth one of the judges. (The others are the historian Orlando Figes, journalist Kate Summerscale and scientist Lewis Wolpert.) The great doctor himself said of his patron, Lord Chesterfield. that it would have been kind if he had given him some notice earlier, but "it has been delayed till I am indifferent, and cannot enjoy it; till I am solitary, and cannot impart it; till I am known, and do not want it". Perhaps Jim and Cherie had better stick to young writers when they draw up their shortlist in May.

WHEN did Ezra Pound become a Fascist? It has always been thought that those unhap-



py leanings began in the early Thirties. But Lawrence Rainey, in the current London Review of Books, suggests, on the basis of some new letters, that it was much earlier, in 1923, when he was trying to get into the library at Rimini to do some research and found it closed. The situation was saved when his Fascist hotelkeeper, newly created "coman-dante della piazza", bullied the old librarian into opening it for him. "He is a noble Fascist," Pound wrote to his wife.

holiday destination, but this summer, to coincide with the 30th anniversary of the first Moon landing, Jonathan Cape are publishing The Full Moon — reproduction of NASA photographs that promise to be the closest most of us will ever get to a trip in outer space. A special ink has been developed to pick out detail on the hynar surface. You really feel that you are in the capsule with

■ THE Moon isn't a usual

leap for books, perhaps.

the astronauts." says editor

Mark Holborn. One giant

Silence does have sound may end, like Hamlet, with "O, o, o, o, o, o";

we are born and die among waves of instinctive and unmediated sound. Sound is like the sea of Genesis, as Bruce Smith remarks in this interesting if on occasions somewhat complicated study. Sound embodies both space and time embroiled one with another in a continually whirling and circulat-ing process. It is the immediacy of human existence itself. So how do we save ourselves from drowning? It is the heart of the subject addressed here in a study of what is called "the cultural poetics of listening" as opposed to simple hearing. The ear receives sensory stimuli all the time, but most are wisely and usefully ig-nored. We listen only when we begin to pay attention.

Yet systems of sound and commu-

nication change all the time: "speech

communities" evolve and decay. We do not hear in the same manner that loth-century people heard. They heard different things, as Bruce Smith suggests, and they responded differently to that which they heard. Imagine, if you will, an Elizabethan musician suddenly being school to list the sum of the su asked to listen to sounds from a wireless or compact disc. He would not be able to distinguish the sounds which, to him, would be simple cacophony. It might also be suggest-ed that if a late 20th-century audience was miraculously transported to an Elizabethan "concert", it would be unable to understand what was

An investigation of how the Elizabethans perceived what they heard speaks across the centuries

Noise, perhaps, is also relative — but relative to what? London has since its inception been known as a noisy city, for example, and it is generally assumed that it has be-come progressively noisier. Yet this is not necessarily the case. In the 17th century the sound of the street and traffic was deemed "excruciating". In the 19th century the noise was compared to that of a cataract or a "crash" of sound; it was a "deafening roar" over which it was almost impossible to hear oneself speak. These conditions now rarely apply, even in the busiest thorough fares of the late 20th-century city, and we might conclude that London is growing silent. Yet in contrast Bruce Smith suggests that "internal combustion engines and large-scale electrical apparatus" have set up a low noise, or drone, or hum, which blots out smaller and more particular sounds so that modern citizens somehow live in a denuded or desensitised acoustic environment.

There is a remarkable passage on the sounds of late 16th-century London, in which the whole theophony of the city is analysed into its constituent parts — "gurgling water, groan-ing carts, jingling horses, chattering strollers, barking dogs, market ven-dors crying their wares". One of the most important of these would have been water, since an Elizabethan



Londoner would never have been far from a stream or river.

Smith then goes on to suggest that each area has its own "soundscape". readily distinguishable and identifiable. So we may say, in contemporary terms, that Leeds has a sound different from that of Manchester.

His definition of the 16th-century countryside is equally original. "In an acoustic environment that, apart from barking dogs and the occasional gunshot, lacked any sounds above 60 decibels, all sounds would be

present with an intensity quite beyond anything imaginable on the same site today." The pulverising uniformity of electric sound has, in other words, transformed the silence of the rural areas. For Bruce Smith, too, the Elizabethan court was primarily an acoustic theatre in which the volume and nature of speech were predetermined by the spatial arrangements of various chambers: thus the larger ceremonial rooms were employed for "major sound events" while the galleries and clos-ets were given up to whispering and

The strength of this book lies in its ability to show the familiar or unnoticed aspects of past and present life in a surprising and unfamiliar light. But since Bruce Smith is dealing with the most general and most gen-erally pervasive phenomenon of all. the history of sound must of necessity become the history of almost everything - from speeches and jigs to ballads and festivals. Sound and intonation are also the single most important guides to relative status in conversation and to the manifesta-tion of truth in selected passages of the liturgy. The Welsh, the trish and the North American Indians were banished from the world of civilised discourse because they made unfamiliar noises. And so Bruce Smith goes from Donne to Castiglione,

from Philip Sidney to Francis Bacon, in order to tease out the complexities of human sound.

His centre of interest remains the theatre, however, and of course the "o" of Hamlet's demise resounded through the "wooden O" of the Globe. There is a long chapter here on that playhouse, both in its past and present incarnations, which will no doubt become required reading for actors and directors. "Vibrations in wood may be short in duration," he writes, "but wood catches the harmonic complexities of ambient sound". In practice the wooden theatre "acted as a gigantic sounding board", a rare and wonderful "sound device" beside the noisy

Much of his description is techni-cal in the extreme, but the wealth of material is so great that there are still revealing asides. Boys could successfully assume female parts in the plays of Shakespeare, for example. because "the mode of pitch for 14-year-old boys and adult females has been demonstrated in modern experiments to be exactly the same". This is in many respects an academic and scholarly work, but it demonstrates scholarship with both poetry and purpose. Its aim is nothing less than to reveal a hidden world of meaning and memory, in which half of human life has always resided.

THE ACOUSTIC WORLD OF EARLY MODERN ENGLAND By Bruce R. Smith University of Chicago Press, £43.95

Dynamic or demonic duo of art?

Rachel Campbell-Johnston finds Daniel Farson's study of Gilbert and George an affectionate portrait —

but that it fails to answer the pair's critics

wo identically besuited gentlemen were stroll-ing the streets of a Devonshire fishing village. Seagulls mewed from gently

smoking chimney stacks. Shafts of low sunlight pierced a spring mist. And a handsome young couple sat chatting by the churchyard, their baby asleep in a pram at their side. So heart-warming was the sight that one of the gentlemen raised his Panama and bade them good morning.
"P** off, you weird-looking twats!" came the snarling

reply.

Gilbert and George — the two identically besuited artists - can scarcely have found this hostility unusual. Alone, either of them might look like any ordinary person. But they never are alone. Ever since they first met at St Martins College of Art in London in the late 1960s, thrown together by a mutual distaste for abstract art, they have lived, worked, eaten and slept together. They have presented a perfectly united front. The effect is more than odd - it is unnerving. It makes people want to shatter

the illusion, to trip them up. If this is what you want, then this biographical portrait is not for you. It scarcely even attempts to shatter the façade. Daniel Farson was too much the friend and fan of London's "living sculptures" to be their betrayers. His concern is not to tear aside the veils of privacy but to offer a gossipy drinking companion's portrait

in

GILBERT AND GEORGE A Portrait

By Daniel Farson HarperCollins, £19.99 ISBN 0 00 255857 2



- much as he did for Francis Bacon in The Gilded Gutter Life - pleasingly intimate, pleasantly indiscreet, but not probing or even particularly insightful. He traces the progress of the

two artists from their village childhoods — George's in Devon, Gilbert's in the Dolomites - through their time at art college, to their moving together into a Spitalfields house. After that, he centres the story on the overseas trips which he shared with them when they exhibited abroad, in Moscow, Shanghai, Stock-holm and New York. And this is where the strengh of this

portrait lies. Anyone who feels alienated by exterior appearances, by the twin blank stares of these "weird-looking twats", will find themselves beguiled instead, charmed by a blend of old-world politeness and delightfully puerile wit. And there is humour, too, in the confusions of critics confronted by the artists' scatological works. Gilbert and George are said to have done for shit what Andy Warhol did for the soup can. Dan Farson (himself an erstwhile critic) may be an indolent researcher, relying largely on news clippings and second-hand opinions, but he still manages to present the amusing clash of views between those who see Gilbert and George as nothing more than "narcissistic nitwits" and those who find the profundities of some modern-day Masaccio in their work.

ut it is the little added extra, the bit you weren't expecting, that makes this portrait most special. Farson died last year and this book, published posthumously, is the swansong of a once esteemed man. "It was in Paris of all places that I lost my panache," he writes in the opening sentence of a chapter which reads like a short story in its own right.

Farson's account of his last journey with Gilbert and George is a study of the loneliness of a dying man: "One banquet too far. I knew it was the end of my journey, and I needed to banish my sense of melancholy," the chapter ends. As Britain's oddest duo of artists are brought to life for the reader, an ill man fades



The odd couple: Gilbert and George on the roof of their studio in Shoreditch, London

A man's world of tea and toys

omesticity, John Tosh argues, was a 19thcentury invention. Men had always been expected to establish homes in which they protected and controlled their dependants; but for shopkeepers, merchants and even manufacturers, as well as for many of the labouring poor, the home traditionally doubled as the workplace. The rise of the professional classes and the imperatives of industrial cities changed this, so that in the Victorian age, for the first time in history, a man's living space was distinguished from his workplace.

The result was a new masculine taste for domesticity. Not all men relished this change. Some still felt, as Mar-

garet Thatcher said in 1991. that "home is where you come to when you have nothing better to do". But for others, between 1830 and 1870, the separation of workplace from household was a delight. Home became a sanctuary from the dirt of the factory, the monotony of the desk or the humiliations of the counter. As a London clerk gloated in 1868. the worst that happened at home was "cutting my grass, sticking my beans, doing carpenter's work, drilling my children in music, or mending their tovs"

John Tosh is a reflective writer, but very much a man of the 1990s. He approves of any tendency that makes men more physically demonstrative, gentle and empathetic. Thus he admires those early Victorians who "established the 'common sense' of the proposition that to be fully human and fully masculine, men must be active and sentient participants in domestic life". He adjusts the stereotype of repressed Victorian childhood by showing that prosperous English parents

who revelled in the comforts of domesticity were 'notorious for their pleasure in children, and their petting and spoiling of them".

It disappoints Tosh that many late Victorian Englishmen became disenchanted with homeliness. He chiefly attributes this to the legislative extension of married women's property rights, but indicts the misogyny of the public school system as a subordinate cause. Public schoolboys became "habituated . . . to an all-male society which thrived alternately on comradeship and competi-tion". Always finding masculine emotions safer, they consequently "gravitated towards a world of chambers and clubs".

Tosh believes imperialism was "actively embraced by young men as a means of evading or postponing the claims of domesticity", that is, as a way of preserving "masculine identity" without "constant negotiations with the opposite

DAVENPORT-HINES A MAN'S PLACE

By John Tosh Yale University Press, £19.95 ISBN 0 300 07779 3



sex". Yet many of his readers. with their own memories of claustrophobic family life, will recognise the joys of Benjamin "Matabele" Wilson messing with other young men in Rhodesia in the 1890s. There is no old woman here to tell you

'you are looking pale' or . . . having people fooling around you with a cup of tea . . . or other things you do not want."

The most striking effect on masculine ideals of the late Victorian public schools and colonial service is neglected by Tosh. For the first time in the history of any imperial power, masculinity became identified with sexual restraint rather than sexual prowess. Ideas of manliness were severed from fornication. The apogee of this cult of celibacy was the extraor-dinary Colonial Office ban of 1909 on its employees having "immoral relations with native women". This massive, unprecedented intrusion of public authority into the private lives of Englishmen was surely the culmination of the redefinition of masculinity.

Richard Davenport-Hines's latest book, Gothic, is published by Fourth Estate

The Sikh slant on history

met Patwant Singh for a drink five years ago. It was a very Sikh drink. He poured me a "Patiala peg" of Scotch, devised in the Sikh principality of that name. It is the largest in the world, a monstrous, two-finger measure: with the drink spanning the space between index finger and pinky.

The peg is an appropriate metaphor for the ways of the Sikhs, the unmistakable peo-ple of the Punjab who have made themselves at home a most everywhere in the world. They are an adventurous tribe, much given to enjoying life. Their martial qualities are also renowned, as is their penchant for political intrigue.

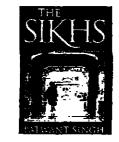
Mr Singh has written an im-passioned book about his people. It is a history book and a portrait of a people, written by a man whose mastery over Sikh history and scripture cannot be questioned. His mastery over his own emotions. however, is often incomplete.

His situation is a complex one. Accomplished, prosperous and urbane, he should, by nature, be a pillar of the Indian establishment. Instead, he comes perilously close to justi-fying the violent Sikh separatist movement that scarred India in the 1980s and resulted in the death of Indira Gandhi, the Prime Minister. She was murdered by her Sikh body-guards, in revenge for a military storming of the Golden Temple in Amritsar - the Sikhs' holiest shrine, where armed separatists had dug themselves in.

After her death, lynch-mobs

VARADARAJAN

THE SIKHS By Patwant Singh John Murray, £25 ISBN 0 7195 5714 3



hunted down innocent Sikhs (who, with their turbans, stand out in a crowd) in several north Indian cities. Inquiries have established that 3.870 Sikhs were killed on October 31 and November 1, 1984. Lamentably, not one of the many Congress politician-thugs who led the mobs has yet been tried for murder, and this impunity has left the author with a pow-erful sense of revulsion towards a civitas that so clearly failed his people.

It is a pity, therefore, that Mr Singh does not subject these black days to the hardheaded analysis that he re-serves for his account of the earliest years of the Sikh faith. Those years are described in clear-cut, urgent prose that brings to life the ferment of medieval Hindustan. Mr Singh is skilled at telling us about the past. The present, alas, is a much too painful story.

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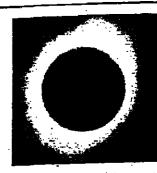
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Bacon

NEW MOVIES: Suburban paranoia has rarely been more thrilling than in Arlington Road, says James Christopher

A stranger's a fiend you do not know

he film of the week, Arlington Road, is a nerve-shredder that sent me blinking and Soho. It's a thrilling piece of paranoia: a political Hitchcock whose opening shots create a mood of deep unease.

Driving home from work. history professor Michael Faraday (Jeff Bridges) comes across his neighbour's son lurching down an empty, sub-urban street with half his hand blown off by a homemade bomb. Thanks to Faraday's mercy dash to hospital the boy lives and Faraday earns the grateful friendship of the boy's father, Oliver Lang (Tim Robbins). Faraday knows a thing or two about bombs. The suspicious death of his wife, an FBI agent, has blown a gaping hole in his life, and his lectures are dominated by the gory aftermath of random acts of terrorism: the bombing of Federal buildings, trade centres and skyscrapers, icons of the American dream. For Faraday, these aren't random incidents at all, but a meticulous campaign by extremists with vested interests in

Crucially, he can never put his finger on what those interests might be. But he can work his conspiracy theories out in his home in Arlington Road. The small lies and evasions of Lang, his urbane new friend and perfect neighbour, provide enough tinder to set Faraday's suspicions blazing. A structural engineer, Lang gets mail from a college he never went to. The blueprints of a shopping mall Lang claims to be building look like an office block. His past is full of shifty inconsistencies, and his identity is suspect.

The deeper Faraday digs. the wilder and uglier his conclusions. A beautiful friendship turns into an icy standoff. Is Faraday the Neighbour-

Arlington Road Warner Village West End 15, 117 mins Nerve-shredding thriller with a magnificent performance from Jeff

Waking Ned UCI Whiteleys PG. 91 mins Lottery Galore! for an

Bridges

Irish village **Seul Contre Tous** (I Stand Alone) Curzon Soho 18, 93 mins Stomach-churning voyage through a butcher's life

Southpaw Metro 15, 77 mins Gripping documentary about traveller boxing

champ A Night at the Roxbury Plaza 15, 82 mins A night in the ring with Lennox Lewis would be preferable

hood Watch gone mad? Or is Lang, supported by his creepily cheery wife (Joan Cusack, superb), the architect of something far more sinister?

it needs at least one great, aching performance to hold it together and Bridges duly delivers. He leans into Robbins like Columbo. Scrunching his eyes into triangular blue chips, he turns from genial neighbour into panting inquisitor. His famously bruised features threaten to cascade down his face. You are never certain of the truth of Bridges's paranoia. You can never quite penetrate Robbins's nerdish

Ultimately, a film that feeds on the fears of what might be. rather than what is, has to

cheat. Entire scenes of Mark Pellington's film turn out to be huge, whopping red herrings. A film that works by stealth suddenly turns into a hurtling melodrama. A rumbling soundtrack and expensive setpieces act on the senses like Gforce. There are death-defying car chases, frantic phone calls to old salts in the FBI and dashes to rescue sons from sinister boy scout camps. Sophisticated grumblers will say the film sells out. But you can't help but gasp at the daring of Ehren Kruger's plot — a truly awesome, evil thing that rips

nd so to Waking Ned, a trosy Irish comedy with a tumbler of Whisky Galore! in its belly. It's a harm-less piece of codswallop, notable mostly for its charming tour of the tics and mores of life in the fictional hamlet of Tully More, population 52 and dwindling.

Ned, a crusty bachelor, is the winner of a lottery jackpot worth £7 million. But his luck causes poor Ned to expire. News of the win, though, does not escape two pickled codgers (Ian Bannen and David Kelly), who go on to hare around on a motorbike in the nude while trying to convince the Dublin lottery rep that Ned is still alive. The desperate duo gradually realise they're going to have to share the pot if they have any hope of pulling this fairytale off. A divisive prize is thus transformed into a romantic community fable in which the real winner is the coastline of the Isle of Man, where the film was actually

Luck is not something that's ever come under the knife of Philippe Nahon in Seul Contre Tous (I Stand Alone). But Gaspar Noe's controversial film enjoyed an unfair slice of it by winning last year's Crit-



A truly awesome, evil thing that rips your expectations to shreds: Jeff Bridges and Tim Robbins in Mark Pellington's thrill-a-minute Arlington Road

ics' Prize at Cannes. I have rarely seen a more savage piece of celluloid. Here the life Nahon's unemployed 50-year-old butcher is chopped out in squalid snapshots. There are no sentimental frills, just the brutal facts of a doomed marriage, an autistic daughter, a prison sentence for GBH and his shabby escape from Paris with his fat and heavily pregnant mis-

We pick up his miserable story at his mistress's house. Nahon has managed to secure a job as a night porter in a dilapidated rest home. A patient dies. Nahon watches, moved only by how insignificant death is. He goes home to his bloated girlfriend, beats her pregnant stomach until he's made "hamburger pulp" of his unborn child, steals a gun and hitches back to Paris. It gets

worse, much worse, This is strong meat for eastiron stomachs: an almost unbroken monologue of nihilistic

thoughts about the sheer un-fairness of life. There is quiet rage at wasted years and a loveless life. There is the never-ending degradation of middie-aged poverty, "Well, drop by again." says one of Nahon's inkrupt clients after giving him the brush-off. "It's always a pleasure." Somehow I doubt many will pick up the invita-

Nahon gives a monumental performance: watery-eyed and chillingly still. But being locked up in his skull with his pulverising thoughts ranks highly in my list of all-time grimmest artistic experiences. This is life at the bottom of the barrel, a voveuristic ritual of

LINKS

Waking Ned: www.fox.co.uk A Night at the Rexbery: www.usp.com

humiliating scrapings framed by grubby doorways and graf-fiti-covered walls. There is no such thing as a scenic view. Director. Noe pulls some annoying stylistic tricks to lighten the load. Jarring jump-cuts are announced by the sound of a bullet going off in your ear. An invitation to leave the cinema is screened before the gruesome denoument. It's enough to put you off meat forever.

There have been some extraordinary films about boxing: The Set-Up, Raging Bull. When We Were Kings. Liam McGrath's short, humble documentary. Southpaw, about the life of Francis Barrett, a 19-year-old traveller from Galway who represented Ireland in the Olympic Games in Atlanta, has every right to be up there with them.

I say humble mainly because it refuses to make a meal out of the discrimination that dogs trish travellers in their homeland. It's also impossible not to like Barrett's big-hearted bruiser, whisked from training in a discarded lorry container to the giddy heights of the Atlanta Games. It's some story. His triumphs are as coolappraised as his disasters. McGrath lets his characters, and the meddling local press, speak for themselves. What he arrives at is no

great mould-breaker in terms poor-boy-made-good. But he does capture a genuinely stirring story of pride and prejudice, fabulous loyalties and sheer guts. The leap of faith made by a local barber, Chick Gillen, who funded a boxing club for the local travellers out of his own pocket, is no less inspired than Barrett's own. This is brave filming, given that it could have been put down by a single punch, or a

single lapse in judgment. Things go downhill from here on. The Butabi brothers (Will Ferrell and Chris Kattan) are the Dumb & Dumber of the LA disco scene. To wit, no right-thinking nightclub bouncer in A Night at the Roxbury will let them past the rope. These fortysomething Crimplene kids have absolutely nothing going for them ex-cept their humour bypass and habit of getting kneed in the groin by girls with big cleavages. What dudes.

heap gags and su-premely kitschy sets are the touchstones of John Fortenberry's film, and they are as clearly illuminated as the exit signs in your local cinema.

The rest of the cast all vaguely remind you of someone more famous. Dan Hedaya's father is a dwarf clone of Robert De Niro; Loni Anderson's mother is a surgical reworking of Britt Ekland: and Richard Grieco (ShoWest Awardwinner for Male Star of Tomorrow 1991) looks like, well, Richard Grieco (Male Never Was 1999). And there's no evidence that any of them has been to a nightclub in years.

"If justice is done at the Oscars, Central Station will win best foreign film."

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Vinicius de Oliveira



The world bows to Tinseltown

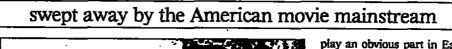
Geoff Brown laments the loss of international films these days, but Eric Roh-them. The French director, 79 in August, has been making a new feature film every few years since the 1960s. They do not change greatly in manner. People talk and manoeuvre, seek or avoid love on beaches. in cafés, in Paris apartments, in farmhouses and gardens.

ife has few certainties

Next week the charming An gun in 1989. But An Autumn Tale now seems an anomaly in art-

urban rightmare.

(The Milky Way). Italy's crop of British releases included Bertolucci's second film Before the Revolution, and two Marxist enigmas from every left-leaning intellectual's favourite, Pier-Paolo Pasolini. Ingmar Bergman



Autumn Tale opens in London, concluding Rohmer's quartet of seasonal tales be-

house cinema. Its director is no boy or girl wonder, but a chap whose track record stretches back 40 years. This is not a film hooked to the style of the moment, whether grainy noir pastiche or dizzy

Rohmer is outside fashion He is also, with Claude Chabrol and a few others, one of the few survivors from what seems a lost Golden Age, when the map of world cinema looked very different. Go back 30 years, to the movies re-leased in Britain during 1969. France, as usual, was strongly represented. Most New Wave directors - Truffaut, Godard and company - had some-thing on offer. Chabrol, busy chap, had three. Rohmer's contribution was La Collectionneuse. Veteran Surrealist Luis Bunuel was still in business





The last echoes of cinema's golden age? Beatrice Romand and Alexia Portal in Eric Rohmer's An Autumn Tale

beavered away for Sweden with back-up from Bo Widerberg. Nothing from Satyajit Ray in India, but Japan had the best of the old and new: Kurosawa's Red Beard, and the sexually explicit Diary of a Shinjuku Thief from Nagisa Oshima. Closer to home. New German Cinema, as it was called, was up and running.

Six films alone came from Czechoslovakia. Hungary meant Miklós Jancsó, master of the visually uplifting but haffling allegory (Silence and Cry, The Red and the White). The USSR thundered with Sergei Bondarchuk's old-fash-ioned but impressive War and Peace. Poland offered Andrzej

Wajda's edgy Everything For Sale. Even Yugoslavia was heard from, with a double-bill

from the mischievous Dusan

7 here are these film makers now? What, indeed, has happened to the venues in London and elsewhere that showed their wares: the Academy, the Paris-Pullman, the Cameo-Poly? Redeveloped. Trapped in Hollywood. Gone to the big projection room in the sky. How easy it would be to grow misty-eyed.

But why have world cine ma's identity and population changed so much? Politics play an obvious part in Eastern Europe. By the late Fifties. it was easier to deviate from the Stalinist orthodoxy of socialist realism, but it only took some Soviet tanks or a change of government for film-mak-

ers' wings to be clipped. Public fashion is a factor too. When Solidarity's bardes in Poland regularly made headlines in the early Eighties, Polish films were much imported. When Poland stopped being news, audiences faded, and the films stopped being acquired. British interest in a foreign cinema can also dwindle if a star director stops performing. Since Satyajit Ray's death, India has almost fallen off the map; you won't see much sign of Sweden, either, since the retirement of Ingmar Bergman.

Once the taste for a coun-

try's cinema is lost, retrieval is difficult. Take Germany. From the late Sixties through the Seventies, the output of Werner Herzog, Wim Wendthe prolific Fassbinder kept everyone busy. Then Fassbinder died, Herzog's talent vanished, Schlöndorff and Wenders wandered off. Germany is producing films worth exporting again, but public indifference in Britain is huge. The saddest spectacle is the

decline in Asian cinema. Eco-

nomic and political changes have stemmed the flow of visual treats from directors like Zhang Yimou or Chen Kaige: it would be tragic if Western sensitivity to the oriental eye and mind declined alongside. This could easily happen. As more films are made, cinema-

goers' memories get shorter. and critics are getting less able or willing to jog their elbow. A few distributors, such as Artificial Eye, stick by the old arthouse gods. The new interest in Iranian cinema also goes against the trend. But in general world cinema audiences have drifted towards the main-

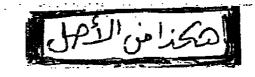
stream: they want their flash bang wallop too. So rejoice in Rohmer's An Autumn Tale. Who knows, it could be a

:((chow far would you go to win a fortune?

)) live webscussions nowww in progress

www.fox.co.uk/ned e rant and rave for free





THE TIMES THURSDAY MARCH 18 1999 Sizzling slice of Bacon

stances in 1995

1711(1)pher Love is the Devil
Antificial Eye, 18, 1998
THE most stimulating Brit THE most stimulating British

film of 1998 is now available to rent or buy. Derek Jacobi plays Francis Bacon, the painter of some of the century's most tortured works. There's little coverage of Bacon at work: John Maybury's brilliant film concentrates on the artist's stormy relationship with George Dyer (Daniel Craig), who came to burgle and stayed to be his model and lover. Maybury also manages the difficult trick of keeping faith with his experimental roots while reaching out towards mainstream audiences.

> MARIUS ET **JEANNETTE** Tartan, 15, 1997

WILL harassed mother Jeannette, just sacked from her job in Marseilles, find health and happiness with Marius, securi-

NEW RELEASES ON VIDEO

ty guard at a disused cement factory? It is hard to care overmuch, though it helps if you appreciate the lashings of Mediterranean colour and writer-director Robert Guediuīan's sympathetic eye for human foibles. With Ariane Ascaride and Gérard Meylan.

MERCURY RISING CIC, 15. 1998

AN FBI agent on the downward slope (Bruce Willis) takes under his wing a nineyear-old autistic child whose parents have been mysteriously murdered, and who now is in peril himself. The reason lies in the child's brain power: he has unwittingly cracked a top-secret government code. Brain power is not something Harold Becker's film need worry about, but it has enough surface action and intrigue to fill a couple of hours. Not many fireworks with Alec Baldwin. though: he seems to be acting in his sleep as the villain of the piece. a government security agent. A rental release.

★ DE SECRET DEFENSE · Artificial Eye, PG, 1998 cratic murder mystery from Jacques Rivette, the grey eminence of intellectual French cinema. Sandrine Bonnaire plays a cancer researcher who prepares to average the mysterious death of her father, boss of a high-tech company. Rivette spins out his story slowly. A

> **III** THIS IS SPINAL TAP BMG, 15, 1984

connoisseur's delight

OH JOY, oh rapture! Rob Reiner and company's delicious parody of rock documentaries arrives on DVD with various interactive gizmos to enlarge the fun. Each fictitious member of the veteran British band gets a biographical note; you can read the song lyrics. zoom straight to your favourite quote, or follow the band's disastrous tour across the States on a map. Or, of course, ou can watch the fibra neat.

GEOFF BROWN



Anarchy rules, OK? Jean Chailis (Mrs Rittenhouse), Ben Keaton (Captain Spalding, aka Groucho) and Hilary O'Neil (Mrs van Damme) in Animal Crackers

Masters of mayhem

Tho was the poor, put-upon fellow in row K whom Joseph Alessi's Chico and Ben Keaton's Groucho grabbed in the interval and stripped almost to his trousers, muttering: "It's the man from The Times"?

No, not yours truly. Yours truly was cowering in the aisles, ready to run if the rampaging Marx Brothers (why, doctor, did I just type "Bothers'?) asked him ritually to humiliate himself. Yours truly was also girding himself for another 70 minutes of what's known in the trade as irresisti-

Since nothing better or worse proceeded to occur, I suppose i should be thankful It is no use going to the Lyric if you don't like programme sellers with joke moustaches or spoof cameramen leaping over you, photographing would-be or actual celebrities. The evening is not aimed at Victor Mekdrew, Scrooge, Malvolio, Mr Gladstone, St Simon Stylites, or me. It is aimed at those who are feeling silly, or need to Experience the Child in themselves, or, as Keaton puts it in one of George Kaufman and Morrie Ryskind's genuinely witty lines. want to "sit down and take the

weight off your intellect". Since the piece has aiready played twice in Manchester, and once at the Barbican, plenty of people clearly belong to one or more of those categories. Animal Crackers was first performed on Broadway in 1928, I imagine without the Riverdance parody and with Harpo playing a harp rather than a saw, and became a hugely successful film. The story, which involves

the stately Mrs Rittenhouse's attempts to throw a grand reception in honour of the unveiling of a statue, is of course the merest excuse for Marx mayhem. And the first and main argument for Emil Wolk and Gregory Hersov's production is that all three brothers are very well played. If Alessi's flowerpot-hatted Chico could be slyer and more streetwise,

the Popues were at their

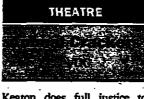
peak, their live perform-

ances were the stuff of leg-

end, part punk rock, part tra-

ditional trish knees-up. The

rock n roll aesthetic.



Keaton does full justice to Groucho's accent, walk, ogling looks and pseudo-gruff inanities, as does Toby Sedgwick to Harpo's hair, tongue and madcap cavortings. So, yes, you will enjoy your-

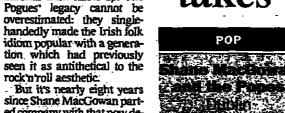
self if you are in the mood for archival humour. Keaton will

certainly entertain you as he hurls politically incorrect gags at Jean Challis's majestic Rittenhouse or delivers a lecture about his trip to darkest Africa in search of moose, elk and Jesuit: "I bagged six tigers. I bagged them to go but they hung around all afternoon." And, yes, you will be happy if you have a taste for Perelmanstyle puns and, though some episodes are surely over-long, probably delighted if you like pastiche farce.

Yet a thought struck me as I watched the brothers bring havoc to a concert at Schloss Rittenhouse, or clamber into a box and fling potato crisps at the faces below. This is 1999, not 1928. Don't we have enough anarchic nonsense of our own without needing to reconstruct someone else's? But I am probably as ill-equipped to appreciate Animal Crackers as Ezekiel, Lord Reith or Mr Grumpy; so please don't take my word as definitive.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

I hen the drink takes the man



since Shane MacGowan parted company with that now defunct band, and at this stage his infamous drinking habits have taken their toll to such an extent that it seems nothing short of miraculous that he is still with us at all. Thus. MacGowan's annual St Patrick's Weekend hooley in Dublin has become almost as much of an institution as

the parade itself. The audience is overwhelmingly male and over-131 - 17W District.

whelmingly drunk. Even before the show has started groups of booze-sodden blokes are linking arms in the bar and belting out the Pogues' biggest hit, Fairytale of New York, as the bar staff - sporting the green and white hoops of Celtic football club and wearing gaudy, plastic Paddy's Day hars that look more like souvenir sandbuckets - line up the next round. The terrace chant of 'Shane-o!" reverberates around a heaving Olympia. Eventually, their hero ap-

pears; he moves and sings with the sluggishness of someone who has just woken from a long-term coma. To observe anyone in such a state is a sad and humbling experience, but when it's someone as talented as Mac-Gowan, a knot twists in the sympathetic fan's stomach.

The next half an hour passes by with MacGowan mumbling inaudibly over the pedestrian pub-rock of his band, the Popes, who appropriately are all wearing

these songs come from their last album with MacGowan, Crock of Gold, but it's hard to tell as it's all just a formless blur the music a halfhearted pick-me-up, the vocals a dull, garbled mess.

The Boys from the County Hell offers us a slight glimmer of hope before MacGowan's mid-set breather, and when he returns it's mostly old Pogues classics from then on. The rowdy, rambunctious crowd hits overdrive as the Ewan MacColl standard. Dirty Old Town, kicks in and the momentum is maintained for Streams of Whiskey and Sally MacLennane. By the time we get to The Irish Rover there isn't a dry shirt in the house. But at this stage you're praying for an end to the whole unsavoury

NICK KELLY

RECOMMENDED TODAY

Guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Marit Hargie

LONDON

MEPHISTOPHELES: An impressive creative team has come together for the English Netsonal Opera's first staging of Boro's fine reworking of the Faust legend, Ian Judge directs the production which has sats by John Gurter and a new transletion it Carlos Wegner. Alestair Miles sings the title role with Devid Rendall as Faust. Oliver von Dorhamyi conduct Collecum (0171-632 8300). Opens tonight, 7.30pm, (3)

THE COLLEEN BAWN: Dublin's Abbey Theatre brings Corall Monison's production of a once famous Dion Boucleaut play; love and intrigue across the classes in 19th-century Instand. Lytteston (1717-452 3000). Opens tonight, 7pm.

THE LION, THE WITCH AND THE WARDHOBE: Adner Noble's speciacular production of the first Name adventure cornes to sown. Barblean (0.171-638 8931).

Previews from tonight, 7.15pm. (5)

NASH ENSENBLE: In this evening of 20th-century music Mentyn Brabbins conducts an all-Engish programme. Premiers of works by How Watkins and Justian Anderson are included allocated to explicit the section of the secti elongside earlier pieces by David Matthews, Mark-Anthony Turnage and Jonathan Hervey. Purcell Room; (0171-960 4242). Tonight, 7.30pm, (5)

ELSEWHERE

GLASGOW: Alexander Lazarev takes the podium with the Royal Scottleh National Orchestra for an evening of liery Russian music. Shosiakovich's Fifth Symphony is preceded by Tchaikovisky's Second Peno Concerto with the renowned piemst. Dmitri Alexaev as soldist. The concer

Kent Nagano conducts the Halle in Manchester

respected in London tomorrow and Edinburgh on Sunday. Royal Concert Hall (0141-287 5511). Tonight, 7.30pm, (5)

MANCHESTER: Symphonies by two Austrian composers from the 18th and the 19th centuries are judeposed in the evening's concert by the Hallé Orchastra. Kent Negano conducts Haydn's Symphony No 102 followed by Bruchner's Narth. Bridgewater Hall (0161-907 9000). Tonight, 7.30pm. (2)

WARWICK: Marts Altren directs the Sphirts Theatre Company in Vita and Virginia, Eiteen Aldrins's acclarmed ramatisation of the correspondence between Virginia Woolf and Vita Sackrille-Wast. Your starts here. Warwick Arts Centre (01203 524524). Tonight-Sat, 7.30pm.

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☐ FORBIDDEN BROADWAY: A second by New York's long-running intimate revue (showhiz Jokes, most) to adapt for London audiences. Jermyn Street (0171-287 2875).

☐ TRUST: Patrick O'Kane plays a Bellest Mr Fixit whose skills disastro ly tall his own tamily. Mick Gord directs new Gary Mitchell drama

CI BLUE HEAPT: Caryl Churchil's Inventive pair of plays, revealing family troubles by way of tricks with words and time.

Pleasance Theatre (0171-609 1800).

SPEER: Klaus Mana Brandauer directs and plays the title role of

Hitler's master architect in Esther Vitar's drama. With Sven Eric Bechto ida (0171-359 4404).

TROILUS AND CRESSIDA: Trevol Numn and John Caird direct black

Irojans and what creeks, with Peter to Jersey and Sophie Okonedo as the doomed lovers, and Roger Allam. David Bamber, Jasper Britton and Oliver Cotton in the company. Olivier (0171-452 3000), (2)

NI MACRETH: Rules Sewell and Selly Dester play the supersition thane and his missis in John Crowley's production. Queens, W1 (0171-494 5041).

☐ TALK OF THE CITY: Stephen Polisikoff's potentially tescinating play about BBC censorship in the 1930s. With David Westhead and a charismatic Angus Winglid. Young Vic (0171-928 6363). ⑤

DEFENDING THE CAVENAN Mark Little makes his West End debut in Rob Becker's new comedy, tracing the origins of the man/women difference back to the caves. Apollo (0171-494 5070).

SHOCKHEADED PETER: The Scissorman is back: wonderfully sinister show by the Cultural Industry team with the Tiger Lifes and Martyn

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NEW RELEASES

PATCH ADAMS (12): Robin Williams puts the comic stitches in this absurd madical movie about a doctor who wants to cure the world with laughter Director Tom Shadvac extracts an obscene amount of sentiment with as little aneesthetic as possible

PLEASANTVILLE (12): Ingenious spool of American family values. Two dystunctional 1990s isenagers get aucked into a squeaky-clean 1950s aucked into a squeaky-clean 1950s aucked into a squeaky-clean 1950s. TV soap. Great performances from Tobey Maguire, Jeff Daniels, and Reese Witherspoon.

CENTRAL STATION (15): Walter Sales's Brazilian road movie creates fabulous chemistry between a young boy in search of his Identity, and a cyriical exteacher in search of her soul. Fernanda Montenegro and Vinicius de Oliveira are astonishing.

SCHIZOPOLIS (18); Steven Soderbergh's experimental staire on corporate arctictly is utter globerish, with carnera angles and dialogue to match

CURRENT

BELOVED (15): Oprah Wintrey is surprisingly powerful as a runaway slave heunted by pottergetss, lynch mobs, and a dead daughter. Jonathan Demme's overlong film

tails, however, to get inside the testering heart of Toni Morrison's Publizer Prize winner. With Darny Glover, Thandie Newton, and Kmberly Elise.

PESTEN (15): Thomas Vinterberg's biting, black, Danish farce features a disastrous lamily reunion. Shot with hand-held cameras, it manages to look spontaneous, ghastly, and delicously voyeursite.

THE 39 STEPS (U): Hitchcock's withy take on Buchan's apping yarn is full of fabulous set pieces. Robert Donat's smooth bachelor dashes across Scotland pursued by acan police and ruthless spies.

THE THIN RED LINE (15): A glittering cast of American soldiers lose their sanity in the South Pacific during the Second World War. Terrence Malick's artistic masteroleci

stars Sean Penn, Jam Caviezel, Ben Chaptin, and Nick Note.

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ARTS

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Braced for day of dark rites

On Eclipse Day, August 11, Cornwall's ancient sacred sites will be inundated with Pagans and tourists, Marcus Binney reports

n Cornwall they call him Prince of Darkness. He is Brigadier Gage Williams, charged with co-ordinating the county's response to the total eclipse that will strike West Corn-wall on the 11th minute of the 11th hour on August 11. At worst, Cornwall fears an invasion of six million visitors causing water shortages, sewage lakes and even typhoid outbreaks - as New Age travellers. cosmologists, druids and assorted Pagans arrive to commune with earth, heaven, myth and mystery.

Brigadier Williams, who is preparing with Eisenhower thoroughness, sets out to dampen the worst fears. He doubts whether it is physically possible for more than 250,000 people to arrive by car per day, plus perhaps 20,000 by train and boat. Thus for six million people to arrive for the eclipse, roads would have to be at full capacity for 24 days both before and after the eclipse. That's rather more time than most of us can spare.

Nevertheless, the predicted pressure on local hospitals is a concern. "Giving birth during an eclipse is the ultimate for Pagans," says Brigadier Williams. "So the druids had a massive love-in in November just what the health authorities don't want to know."

Officials are also worried about all-night raves at ancient sites. Locals have been seething at the appearance of a flyposted advertisement for a tribal gathering on moor-land at Men-an-Tol. A proposed rave at Penwith has prompted calls for farmers to plough the land.

Protective action is being co-ordinated by the Deputy County Archaeologist. Stephen Hartgroves. "We're expecting people to head for the hilltops and high ground where many of the ancient sites are congregated and which are likely to be free of mist. There are 1,500 monuments in the county, and records of 36,000 historic sites if mines and quarries are included."

Worse problems could come if the weather is wet and visitors camp for days or even weeks to get a front seat at key sites. "Lighting

fires, digging holes for latrines and clambering on stones are the worst things you can do at ancient sites,"

says Hartgroves. Luckily, Pagans themselves may come to the rescue. The delightfully named ASLAN (Ancient Sacred Landscape Network) is producing a sacrete sites charter for visitors: an extension of the Countryside Code. Andy Norfolk of the Pagan Federation explains: "Pagans follow a nature-based spirituality. The landscape is regarded as sa-cred, with circles and stones being sources of special power. The eclipse is seen as a time of power

for change, we hope for the good." Norfolk is a landscape architect who started the Cornish Earth Mysteries Group and became involved with the purchase of the Rollright Stones. He and his colleagues plan voluntary fieldwork to repair sites both before and after the eclipse, co-ordinated with local landowners and the Cornish Wildlife Trust. To avoid inadvertent damage, they are planning open celebrations at several sites including the Hurlers on Bodmin Moor.

"We are planning nothing that would make people feel uncomfort-able," he promises. "We may use some prayers produced by the United Nations. It's common for Pagans to call the Quarters, the elemental spirits of the north, south, east and west."

This is mild compared with the celebrations planned by Ed Prynn, the Archdruid of Cornwall. He says: "Most archdruids, like me, are self-appointed. I was a quarryman until I had an accident."

Since then he has been busy erecting stones (the heaviest is 18.5 tons), including a stone circle, a rocking stone, a healing stone and a judg-



Philip Payton's Cormeall (Ale

ment stone. Clearly he is a great believer in the power of the land-scape. There's not a lane in Cornwall where someone hasn't seen

> He's planning a week of festivities with a God and Goddess Night (dressing up encouraged), evenings of fortune telling, and a sun dance (to discourage rain on Ectipse Day). A wedding stone will be erected on the day. Sir Rex Hunt sent him two stones from the Falklands. By contrast, the National Trust will close its houses for the day. "It's not so much a question of security, just that we won't have enough staff," says Jeremy Pearson, who adds that the NT's gardens will open at 1.30pm. English Heritage is closing Dartmouth Castle but preparing for crowds at Pendennis

fairies or the little people," he says.

im Smit who has restored the Lost Gardens of Heli-gan, one of Cornwall's principal attractions, sees the eclipse as a brilliant way of giving the rest of the world a taste of Cornwall. "It's vital that visitors have a pleasant time and don't get rioped off," he says.

Castle, which is on the line of totality - as are St Mawes, Restormel,

Totnes and Berry Pomeroy.

The Trevithick Trust, a pioneer in opening up industrial sites, sees just such an opportunity for its Geevor Tin Mine, claimed as the first landfall at the line of totality. It has prepared a special caravan site with hard gravel bases, fresh water standpipes and 24-hour security. The trust's Stuart Smith welcomes visitors, as he is campaigning for this and other mines to be declared World Heritage Sites. "Cornish mining technology dominated the world scene in the 19th century. Cornwall was the byword for technical innovation leaving a unique landscape of engine houses, foundries, terrace houses and chapels."

By most people's reckoning Corn-wall is better equipped in ancient sites than anywhere else in the country. Historic Cornwall, a map guide issued by the County Council, lists 135 sites open to the public.



Men-an-Tol: flyposted advertisements for a "tribal gathering" on moorland near this celebrated ancient landmark have incensed locals

These include Neolithic burrows. ancient villages at Chysauster and Roughtor, Iron Age hill forts at. Trencom, Castle-an-Dinas and Warbstow as well as lighthouses at the Lizard, Trevos and Pendeen, art galleries at Newlyn and St Ives, gar-dens full of exotica at Trebah, Trel-

Porthcurno. Now being built, but not quite ready for August, is the biggest attraction of them all: the £80 million Eden Centre, a series of glasshouses on the scale of the Waterloo Channel Tunnel terminus

lar plant habitats in Britain. More than this, Cornwall hasi one of the finest collections of an- erous in spirit interest in the cient churches in the country, commemorating Cornwall's many saints. But what will traditional

which will house the most spectacu. Pagans? Peter Burman, former secretary of the Council for the Care of Shurches, sayle. The church is geneclipse reflects the hunger people feel for mystery and otherness. The churchgoers' make of the influx of the mysteries of creation."

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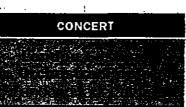
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CHANGING TIMES

Music mission to outer space

looked into the future on Tuesday night. Galaxies and fiebulae drifted across the denie overhead. A flautist wearing flashing red lights twittered around the auditorium. Icy mutterings, ran the flags and ground seems. rap rhythms, clangs and growls soared through loudspeakers and collided with iabbering live instruments conducted by Ross Pople. This was a foretaste of the Galileo experience: a project of the London Festival Orchestra, due for completion at the Millennium Dome and venues

throughout the country in 2000. The object is to forge fresh links between music, astronomy and science, and to engage children's minds in composition workshops. Members of the LFO have been sent out to schools with instruments, electronic equipment and two themes for consideration: Galileo the 17thcentury astronomer, who peered through a telescope and found many wonders, like spots on the Sun; and Galileo the late 20th-century space mission. The sound material generated so far has been given



to a composer, Edwin Roxburgh, for transmutation into a mixed-media work, ulti-

mately some 40 minutes long.

Roxburgh, an accomplished oboist and professor at the Royal College of Music. was a wise choice: any man whose catalogue includes works called Nebula, Saturn and Stardrift (the piece played by the flashing flautist) is obviously happy in outer space. His ear for sonority is acute, and the chunk of his Galileo so far performed happily avoids the eerie wails and throbs associated with Fifties science-fiction mov-

For inspiration, Roxburgh said, he used material generated with primary school

pupils. From the three workshop samples heard on tape, you could understand why. Two offerings from GSCE students hovered boringly close to rap and pop: not much broadening of the horizons there. But the primary schools' presentation was conceived afresh, conjuring up the icy surface of Europa, one of Jupiter's moons. through whispered syllables and unearthly sounds cold enough to freeze the ears. Roxburgh's live music made merry with the intervals and tone colourings from the workshop material: if this is what outer space is like, we have nothing to fear.

A feeling persists, though, that if you heard Roxburgh's Galileo cold, there would be no reason to think of astronomy at all: in times before millennium grants. the piece would probably have been called Metastasis IV. Still, it was fun to hear, and the LFO's Galileo project is set to stimulate lot of minds, young and old, in the months to come. .

GEOFF BROWN

THE WORLD

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NEW CLASSICAL CDS: Prize voices from the postwar period soar again

OPERA

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DUTTON, feeling perhaps that it has reached the end of the furrow in its excellent plough through the stars of English opera, has gone inter-national. All the items on the present choice collection come from the immediate postwar years and many of them feature singers who were heard at Covent Garden in the late 1940s, either with visiting companies or as individuals. Lon-don orchestras provide most of the backing, generally admi-

The set begins in cracking form with Margherita Carosio showing just how Bellini should be sung, limpid and clear, in Amina's Act II aria from Sonnambula. Generally the sopranos dominate. With the Countess's Dove sono from Figaro, Maria Cebotari reminds us that she was an early runner in the great Romanian tradition that was to pass through Cotrubas to Gheorghiu. Hilde Konetzni outclasses many more famous rivals in the Marschallin's monologue from Rosenkavalier. Only Margherita Grandi sounds past her prime as Elisa-

betta in Don Carlos.

One of di Stefano's earliest recordings. Federico's lament from L'Arlesiana, is included. Very good it is too, as is a snatch of Luigi Infantino, airiness itself as the Duke in Rigoletto. Five prize baritones are led by Schöffler and Gobbi, the latter marvellously insinuating as lago. The transfers are first class.

JOHN HIGGINS

RECITAL

HAYDN Piano Sonatas Leif Ove Andsnes EMI CDC 5 56756 2 * * *

£15.99 LONDON will be hearing plenty of the pianist Leif Ove Andsnes this summer when his own chamber-music festival from the Norwegian harbour-town of Risor visits the Wigmore Hall. For the time being, this latest release shows something of the delights of his Haydn playing: less considered and introspective than that of Andras Schiff, less highly-strung than that of Alfred Brendel.

CDs reviewed in The Times can be ordered from the Times Music Shop on 0345 023498

What Andsnes does so well is to recapture the excitement of a composer writing just at the time when the keyboard was undergoing its most radical changes. And snes pays homage to the echoes of harpsichord (for which Haydn wrote his earliest Sonatas) and of Baroque artifice in the brilliance of ornament and the wonderfully variegated hammering figuration of his Sonata No 30 in B minor. And he relishes the risks of the shapes of things to come in the C sharp minor Sonata with its fearless

In between, the A major Sonata makes enough rhythmic play with Haydn's horncall to give something of a rude awakening to its dedicatee, Prince Esterhazy, before tiptoeing with considerable mischief through a Minuet whose sections cunningly reverse them-selves on their reprise.

harmonic and dynamic explo-

HILARY FINCH

ORCHESTRAL

■ STENHAMMAR Symphony No.2: Exectsion: Reverenza: 2 Songs Von Otter/Royal Stockholm PO/Jārvi Virgin VC 5 45244 2 ★ ★ ★ THOUGH never quite becom-

ing the Swedish Grieg that his early promise suggested, Wil-helm Stenhammar (1871-1927) nevertheless established himself as one of his country's most important musicians. His magnificent Second Symphony, a fascinating synthesis of German Romanticism and Swedish folk elements, has been recorded several times (twice by Neeme Jarvi).

Now the latter's son Paavo enters the field with the Royal Stockholm Philharmonic, of which he is principal guest conductor. His reading is in places more studied than his father's, also more expansive (notably in the finale where he takes an extra three minutes). But that willingness to linger means that he drains every drop of expressivity and there is no palpable sacrifice in terms of momentum.

The couplings are the aspirational "symphonic overture" Excelsior! the Reverenza (a quirky minuet movement dropped by the composer from the Serenade in F, and a pair of delightful songs given by Sweden's most prominent mez-20, Anne Sofie von Otter

BARRY MILLINGTON

* Worth hearing * * Worth considering * * * Warth buying

Bargains of the week: from rambling in the Peak District for single people to a peaceful break on the Tunisian island of Djerba



A selection of last-minute holidays and travel opportunities at home, on the Continent and farther ofield, many at bargain prices

A WALK ending at a whisky distillery is among excursions on a Highlands package from Countrywide Holidays beginning on Sunday. Six nights' B&B and dinner at Dornoch Hotel costs £199, walking programme and picnic lunches included. Details: 01942 241432

■ MORE rambling is on offer from Solo's, this time for singles in the Peak District over Easter, where three nights half-board from April 2 costs £259. The company has a similar deal for golfers at Shrewsbury. Details: 0181-951 2800.

■JERSEY should be at its best over Easter with spring flowers to the fore. Consort Hotels offers free car hire and

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Sunday lunch as extras on three night breaks at the Roy-al Hotel in St Helier, which include B&B, diriner and return flights from Gatwick or Southampion for £240. Modern Hotels offers four nights of B&B with catamaran crossing from Poole for £162. Details: Consort, 01534 726521; Modern, 01534 35511.

THE Lakes and a listed building form the Easter offering from Sunvil UK, which has two nights' dinner, B&B at the Grade II Ennerdale Country House Hotel from £109. Details: 0181-232 9788.

EASTER camp for the kids can still be booked between April 3 and 10 at activity cen-tres in Norfolk and Stafford-shire with Camp Beaumont. Prices start from £99 for short breaks and £208 for a week including full-board and everything from archery to quad-biking. Details: 0171-922 1234.

THE West of Ireland is available at a good price over: Easter from Irish Perries Holidays. Drive to Perabroke, sail to Rosslare between April 1 and 4 and spend a week travelling to Cork, Killarney and Limerick with B&B along the way for £336. Details: 08705 170000:

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CYPRUS celebrates Easter in

style and sunshine, and some reasonable deals are available even though it is a peak period. Enjoy the processions and culinary specialities on a week's self-catering holiday with First Choice for £249, with a flight from Gatwick on March 31, or a formight in Paphos with Eclipse for £389. with a flight from Manchester on the same day. Details: First Choice, 0870-750 0001; Eclipse, 0990 010203.

■ VATICAN CITY is one of the places to be on Easter Sunday and is possible on a week's coach tour to Rome with Leger. Depart from a wide choice of pick-up points in England and Wales on March 31 for the trip, which costs £189, including four nights' B&B in the spa resort of Fiuggi, an hour's drive from the capital. Details: 01709 839839.

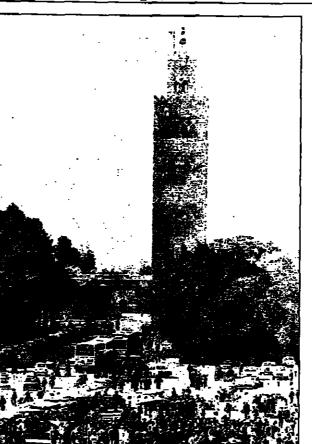
LONG breaks at good prices are rare at this time of year but Lunn Poly has four weeks in a three-star hotel at Puerto de la Cruz, Tenerife, for £673, with return flights from Newcastle on Easter Sunday and half-board. Details from the company's Holiday Shops.

CAMPING on the Cote d'Azur over Easter is on offer from Canvas Holidays. A party of up to six will pay £27! for a week in a mobile home or £451 for a formight, starting between April I and 16 and including a short Channel crossing for car and passengers. Details: 01383 644000.

■ DAVY CROCKETT ranch is an alternative offering, and has the added advantage of being part of Disneyland Paris. Two nights in a mobile home that looks like a log cabin from Easter Sunday for two adults and up to four children costs £409 with Eurocamp, including a short Channel crossing for car and family. Details: 01606 787878.

■ LATE-SEASON skiing cross-country and downhill -is possible on a long weekend in Geilo, Norway, with Inntra-vel. Fly from Heathrow on April 8 and pay £429 for three nights full board and ski hire. Details: 01653 628862.

■ TRAVEL after Easter and the bargains are better, with a formight's self-catering as far away as Rhodes available from £150 with Olympic-Odyssey. Flights leave Garwick and Manchester on April 21. Details: 0181-343 9090.



LONG HAUL

NORTH AFRICA often misses out in these columns as it is only three hours' flying time from Britain but certainly not in Europe. To make amends here are a couple of contrasting offers, Tony Dawe writes. Djerba, an island linked to

the Tunisian mainland by a causeway, is uncannily peaceful for the region but has good beaches, is close enough to intriguing moonlike landscapes and on offer at good prices from Direct Line Holidays. A week's B&B from April 10 at a four-star hotel costs £305 with a flight from Gatwick and a fortnight is available for £80 more. Details: 0181-239 3399.

Morocco has even more to offer with mountains, desert, walled cities, ancient fortresses - and the most aggressive souvenir salesmen in the world. All can be experienced on a fortnight's tour from April 20 with Prestige Holi-days for £1,195 with flights. half-board and entrance fees. Details: 01425 480400.

■ TRADITIONAL weather holidays are available from Co-on Travelcare with a formight's room-only break in Barbados costing £489, but be quick for this Airtours holiday

starts with a flight from Manchester on Monday. Details: 0541 500388.

■ MAURITIUS is never cheap but Sovereign Worldwide is knocking £320 off short breaks to the Indian Ocean island starting between March 26 and 31. Five nights half-board at a beach hotel costs £895, including flights from Heathrow or Manchester. Details: 0161-742 2224.

■ MALAYSIA is also available at a discount from Thomas Cook Holidays with a fortnight from April 1 at the Shangri La Golden Sands, Penang, costing £635 with re-turn flights from Heathrow. The hotel boasts good leisure facilities and a children's club. Details: 01733 418450.

● All prices are per person and based on two travelling together and sharing a room unless otherwise stated



See The Times on Saturday for more flight bargains and last-minute holidays

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ATHLETICS

All roads lead to **Balmoral** for festival

By David Powell, athletics correspondent

ON SUCCESSIVE weekends last April, Paula Raddiffe and Tegla Loroupe ran world best times. This April they will be appearing on the same bill in a two-day festival of road racing at Balmoral Castle. What price the snowman to be there

Last year, there was April snow at Balmoral, but that did not stop Radcliffe annihilating the world best time for five miles. It was a memorable first year for the Compaq road races. The day had begun with Prince William and Prince Harry building a snowman



and ended with Raddliffe melting away the opposition.
The big innovation this year is that it is not going to snow." Brendan Foster, the former 3,000 metres world record-holder whose company puts on the event, said. If that cannot be guaranteed, one innovation that can is the throwing open of the royal grounds

to a mass participation race.

After Radcliffe defends her five miles title on Saturday April 24, Loroupe will try to win, for the second successive year, the BUPA Great Caledonian Run over ten kilometres on the Sunday. Last year, it was held in October in Edinburgh, but the date and venue have been moved.

"The feedback we got from Balmoral last year was that the elite races were brilliant but could we not throw this open to the public, and that is what we have done," Foster said. "The people in Aberdeen say it will be the most beauti ful run in Britain."

As beautiful as it is muscular so far as the talent on show is concerned. Loroupe broke Ingrid Kristiansen's 13-year-old marathon world best in Rotterdam last year and, though she is returning to Holland to defend her title, she has committed to Baimoral seven days later.

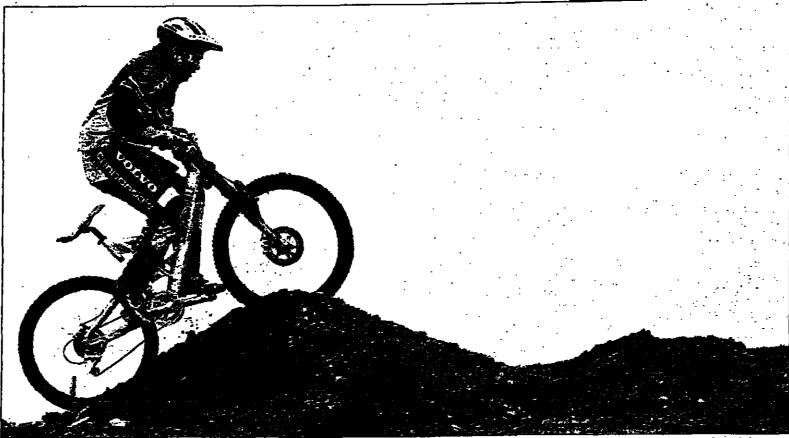
For the Compaq men's race, organisers have announced the inclusion of Paul Tergat, from Kenya, who stands on the threshold of history, for in Belfast on Sunday week he will attempt to become the first man to win five successive world cross-country titles.

Tergat, a former world record-holder for 10,000 metres, took up running only after being conscripted into the Kenyan Air Force in 1990. One of 17 siblings — his father had three wives - he is a man who thinks beyond the boundaries of running.

He shares an import-export business with Moses Tanui and the pair also run an athletics magazine. Sounds like another Brendan Foster - champion athlete turned successful businessman — in the mak-

The festival is on the weekend of April 24-25, one week after the Flora London Mara-

ENTER: Telephone 01538-702100, or write to: 1999 BUPA Great Caledonian Run, PO Box 512, Cheadle, Stoke on Trent ST10 4RJ.



Wheel of fortune: Moseley's rising reputation has earned her a lucrative deal with one of the biggest teams in mountain biking, Volvo Cannondale UK

Moseley plots a downhill course

titanium nuts of the downbill mountain bikes are not vet welcome at the Olympic Games unlike their cross-country cousins - but it is a fast-growing sport, big on glamour and money, with speed and drama guaranteed. This Saturday, in Cheddar, Somerset, another national downhill season gets under way.

Many more men than women have taken to the hills where, on courses that vary from three to eight minutes. speeds approaching 50mph test nerve as well as strength. A handful of women, though, are now skidding to the forefront, where they are able to earn a living from a sport still only a couple of decades old. One such is Tracy Moseley. 19, from Malvern, who rode

her first race five years ago and who, as a second-year biology student at Sheffield University, has signed a contract with one of the biggest teams, Volvo Cannondale UK. In doing so, she has become the envy of her older brother, Ed.

"He's ranked in Britain's top ten for men's downhill," Moseley said. "Because there are only about 30 women who race in the national events,

Signing for a leading mountain bike team has put a young British woman on the right route to success

compared to more than 200 men, it's easier for the top girls to get sponsorship. Ed is always supportive towards me, but it must be hard for him because I've come along and got his dream first." Moseley likened her contract to signing schoolboy foot-

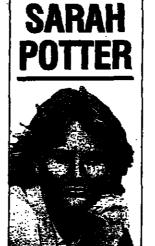
ball forms. "It starts off with enough to survive," she said. "For me it means that I don't have to worry about working while I'm studying, because I'm getting a salary as if I was a professional. I get all my bikes and equipment, clothing and travel expenses so I can compete in the world series and championships." Which will, during the sum-

mer months, send her zigzag-

ging her across Europe and

the United States. If she can improve on ber couple of top-ten placings last season, the financial rewards could be high. "That's where you get into the big time." she said. The best British guys would be on £60,000 to £80,000 a year and some of the top women I know have

been asking £20,000."



It was the generosity of one of the elite British women, Helen Mortimer, that initially elped Moseley on her way. "I'd just started racing and had very little kit," Moseley said. 'I was in my shorts and T-shirt when Helen came up to me and offered to lend me her bike from the previous sea-

racers in the world and it was amazing, someone like that giving me that amount of help."

Mortimer had spotted a talent worth encouraging. though she could be forgiven for ruing her judgment when Moseley beat her for the first time last season. Now, with a custom-built Cannondale worth in excess of £4,000 beneath her, the new kid on the block hopes to shave yet more seconds from her race times.

Even with full body protection, hurtling down the highspeed slopes — dodging trees and jumping rocks - claims plenty of broken bones, but it has also built a few largerthan-life personalities. Missy The Missile' Giove was, up until this season, the spearhead of the Volvo Cannondale team. The American is the most famous woman in the sport and reputedly earned \$500,000 (about £310,000) last

"It's a very social sport, any-way." Moseley said. "But Missy has always given me

lots of help. Aithough she's not the top-ranked woman any more, she's got a past and personality that will always at-

That past meant delivering Chinese food in New York to help to fund sporting passions that included snowboarding and surfing. Moseley's route into downhill racing has been more sedate. "I was brought up on a farm so my main job was milking the cows," she said. "I've worked in a boarding kennels, walking the dogs to earn extra money, but that's

ny spare time now is spent training for a sporting career that, like the event itself. is over all too quickly. "I definitely want to give it my all once I've finished university." she said. "But it'll probably only last three or four years." Whether the sport can sustain its rapid growth remains to be seen. "Bike manufactur-

ers have put huge amounts of money into it," Moseley said. but I do wonder if it's getting to the stage where it can't go much further. I don't worry about that because being paid is a bonus. I could ride downhill all day, because I love it."

SQUASH

Potters Bar shrug off cash fears with victory

By COLIN MACQUILLAN

POTTERS BAR, the poor relations of the Squash Rackets Association National Squash League, have battled through to their fourth consecutive semi-final with a 3-2 home win over Chichester that featured all but one of the players who first formed their squad in

Twice winners of the league, the Hertfordshire side are struggling financially after losing a sponsor last year and then facing an attack on their membership from a new local health club offering discount joining fees.

An emergency meeting of loyal members and players resulted in a determination to stay in the league. The players agreed to back the club by taking reduced fees and even delaying payment until the members could organise sum-mer events if there was a short-fall on ticket sales." Tochi Bhatt, the team manager, said. "It seems to have bred an even greater resistance to defeat than existed before".

The quarter-final showed the team's determination after lain Higgins went down in straight games at second string to Ben Garner and Paul Carter, the Potters Bar team captain and new British over-35 champion, failed to match the speedy Tim Vail. Jamie Davis dragged the home side back into conten-

tion with a 9-15, 15-6, 15-11, 15-5 third-string win over Mike Harris and Sue Wright contributed to the women's fifth string with a 9-6, 9-7, 9-6 win over Stephanie Brind. The players were in similar battling form when they took the title in 1996 and 1997, but

the deciding match fell to Mark Cairns, the England No 3. He won the quarter-final 15-7, 15-3, 15-12 against Peter Genever at first string. The first leg of the semi-fi-

nais on March 30 will take Potters Bar to Nottingham, who defeated Edgbaston Priory 4-1 in their quarter-final. The second semi-final is between UK Packaging, of Chingford, who overcame Devon and Exeter 5-0, and UNW Northumberland, of Newcastle, who won 3-2 against UniS Guilford.

THE TIMES

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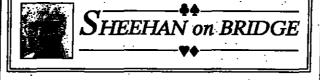


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CHANGING TIMES



BY ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

The effect of the opening lead on the play of the hand can be quite extraordinary even if it does nothing whatsoever to help either side establish any winners. Take a look at this deal from the American Blue Ribbon Pairs and consider the play in Six No-Trumps, usually reached after South opened an optimistic 15-17 One No-Trump.

▲ K 1075

♥KQ92

		4 K74	
	4 984	N	A A63
	♥ 7654	1 ' 1	♥ J 108
	♦6532	W E	0 J1094
	4 19 8	S	4 QJS
		♠ QJ2	
		♥ A3	
		♦ K87	
		♣ A9652	
5	₩	N .	E
_		=	Pass
1 NT	Pass	2 C	Pass
2 D	Pass	6 NT	All Pass

Superficially it does not seem card to read - perhaps it

to matter what West leads nothing appears to be any
help to declarer at all. But
should get it right, at least

look what happened.

The declarers who received a spade lead knocked out the ace and cashed all the spade and dia-mond winners before testing the hearts. Of course, if the same hand had held length in hearts and clubs he would have been squeezed. If not, the residual chance, that someone holds the jack and ten of hearts in a two- or three-card suit, comes in. Six

No-Trumps makes
That looks straightforward enough, does it not? But at more than one table, West led a heart against Six you can see that it is declarer No-Trumps. The six of hearts is a difficult spot may be fooled.

one declarer put in the nine of hearts at trick one and later regretted it.

Even if declarer passes the first test and plays low on the opening lead, South might be further tested by a crafty East, who can put in the jack of hearts and create an illusion of a finesse later on against the ten of hearts. This sort of position, where a defender plays the

higher of touching honours to persuade declarer into a losing finesse, comes up more often than is realised. Keep a look out for it when

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

CARBONARI

a. Fishy pasta b. Fishy conspirators

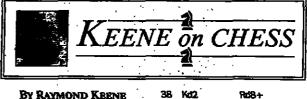
CITRUL

a. A bullfighter's sword b. A melon c. Popular rule by citizens CROMORNE

a. A geological era

b. Cock-crow c. An organ stop CASTOR

a. The gladiator with a net b. A religious singer



CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Up and down

Today, in completing all of the decisive games from the Lin-ares tournament, I give a win and a loss by the talented Ukranian grandmaster Vassi-ly Ivanchuk. At one time Ivanchuk was considered a future world champion and, indeed, he seemed capable of scoring wins against Kasparov. Ivan-chuk, however, has a nervous disposition that often holds him back from achieving his maximum potential.

White: Peter Svidler Black: Vassily Ivanchuk Linares 1999 French Defence

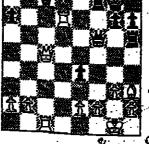
Diagram of final position White: Peter Leko Black: Vassily (vanchuk

Linares 1999 Sicilian Defence

30 a3 31 b4 32 bra5 33 Re1 34 k71 35 ke2 36 kra3 37 Rb1 38 Rb67 39 Rb7

WINNING MOVE

White to play. This position is from the game Burmakin-Gul-iev. St Petersburg 1998. Can you spot White's fine combina-tion, which allowed him to exploit the slight weakness in



Westwood and Clarke begin Masters build-up

FROM JOHN HOPKINS, GOLF CORRESPONDENT, IN ORLANDO

FLORIDA is glorious in March. The blossom is just beginning to emerge and the air is clean and dry. Combine the attractions of the Orange State at this season with a tournament hosted by Arnold Palmer, held on an excellent golf course, and it becomes clear why the field for the Bay Hill Invitational, starting today, is one of the strongest for a strokeplay event so far this

Perhaps, though, the appeal of Disney World, Universal Studios and some remarkably cheap shopping have something to do with it as well.

Tiger Woods is competing in his sixth strokeplay tournament of the year, and his first for a month. And so he should. He lives nearby and the journey from home to tee may be the shortest he has to make to compete all year. After dispensing with the services of Mike 'Fluff" Cowan in February, Woods is unveiling his new caddie, Steve Williams, a New Zealander who is a former professional and has carried for

Greg Norman and Ray Floyd. Other caddies on the tour describe him as highly professional and one who keeps himself to himself. Cowan's bur-

THE message for contestants in the Standard Register Ping

tournament, which begins at

Moon Valley here today, is

clear: Watch out, Annika's

Annika Sorenstam, the

world No I, is back, relaxed.

after a four-week break. "I'm

in grinding mood again," the

Swede said. She has been ski-

ing, working out, practising hard at the Callaway complex

in San Diego with Henri Ries, her coach — "we had a million

things to work on" - and per-

Yoga is a new venture for

fecting her lotus position.

who appeared on television commercials, may have been the last straw in his relationship with Woods

Colin Montgomerie, who finished 38th at a tournament in Fort Lauderdale last week, has made the short journey north and is joined by Lee Westwood and Darren Clarke, who were last seen competing in the World Golf Championship at La Costa in California three weeks ago. Westwood, ranked sixth in the world, had no difficulty in getting an invitation but he made a personal plea to Palmer for a place for his friend Clarke. For them, this is the start of their build-up to the Masters, which

begins three weeks today. There are, seemingly, thousands of Britons in town but Sandy Lyle is not one of them. though he could have been. Lyle and Florida have had a chequered relationship, the high point of which came in 1987 when he defeated Jeff when he defeated Jeff Sluman in the Tournament

Players' Championship. it was about this time that Lyle accidentally took a wrong turning while driving north. Realising his mistake, he drove on expecting to see an exit road. It did not appear for

Sorenstam sets standard

FROM PATRICIA DAVIES

IN PHOENIX, ARIZONA

nor 80. Alligator Alley, the road he was on, is the only one one in Florida that has no turn-offs. It links the east and west coasts and you get on it and off it at each end, not at points along the way. Lyle, poor soul, had to drive over 100 miles in the wrong direction with the drive of the words. tion before he was able to do anything about it.

These days he is living somewhat hand-to-mouth in terms of tournaments. He played in Arizona at a tournament that coincided with the La Costa event and last week got an en-try to the Honda Classic, in which he finished seventieth. Sadly, though, he did not acquaint himself with the rules for this week's tournament.

Had he done so, or perhaps more to the point, had his manager done so, it would have become clear that as a past win-ner of a major championship held during the lifetime of the Bay Hill event, he would have been eligible. This is, after all,

LINKS



BOWLS

Scotland look too strong for rivals

BY DAVID RHYS JONES

SCOTLAND, the defending champions, will meet England, their traditional rivals, in what amounts to a knockout encounter for the British women's indoor title at Belfast to-day, while the host country seems destined to take the wooden spoon.

The Scots, with three newcomers and two recalled players in their ranks, met little opposition from Wales yesterday and, with a handsome victory over ireland already under their belts, are hotly tipped to win the Clara Johns Trophy for the sixteenth time.

England, who won on five of the six rinks, defeated Ireland 129-83 and Scotland raced to a 135-103 win over Wales, returning four winning cards.

Eyebrows continue to be raised at the way that rinks are drawn at random, because, although there are six rinks to choose from, players can find themselves rolling up on the same ground they got to know the day before. Thus it was that Jean Sykes, from Auchinleck, was allowed

to repeat her previous day's success on rink 6, where she had put 34 shots across Joyce Mulholland. Her eyes lit up when the draw was announced and with Julie Forrest, Scotland's Commonwealth Games singles representative, operating well at lead, she proceeded to steer her quartet to another big win. this time 28-13 over Ann Dainton's luckiess Welsh team.

Previous knowledge of a rink is not always an advan-tage, of course. Earlier, Jayne Roylance's face was a picture of gloom when she realised she would have to endure another four hours on rink 6. Having lost to a Welsh rink skipped by Maureen Tanner on Tuesday, she fared better, scoring a single on the 21st end to break a 13-13 deadlock and beat an Irish rink skipped by Dessa Baird, 14-13.

Eileen Bell, who is challenging to break the late Mavis Steele's world record as the most capped woman bowler, was recalled to the Irish side, and helped Chrissie O'Gorman to a creditable 19-17 win

SPORT

Fears over World Cup ticket fraud

E RUGBY UNION: Organisers of the 1999 Rugby World Cup have voiced concern over potential black market ticket sales. Patrick Deuchar, the chief executive of Rugby Hospitality 99, has warned that the competition must avoid the pitfalls of the football World Cup last year.

"Bitter experience has taught us that large international sporting events provide rich pickings for unscrupulous touts with large mouths and empty promises," Deuchar said. "During France 98, many agencies went bust leaving clients without tickets. refunds or redress, with an estimated £12 million being owed to UK companies."

CRICKET: Paddy McKeown scored 59 as Lancashire reached 205 for seven before declaring in the opening three-day fixture of their pre-season tour of South Africa against Western Province Acadamy in Cape Town. Ian Austin, who came through a World Cup fitness test last week, played for the Academy team and took one for 24 in 13 overs with no reaction to the knee injury that troubled him last season. The Academy made 40 without loss in reply.

HOCKEY: The Army defeated the Royal Navy 4-0 in the Services Championship at Aldershot yesterday to regain the Wilkinson Sword. a special prize for hockey matches between these teams. Fordham opened the scoring early in the second half and further goals were added after the interval by Tapp. Jennings, from a penalty stroke, and Relph from a short corner.

GOLF: The richest prize in the history of the European women's tour will be played for at the Evian Masters in France from June 9-12. A winner's cheque of £102,500 is more than all but two players, Helen Alfredsson and Sophie Gustafson, of Sweden, earned on the circuit last season. The total purse of £689,000 makes the tournament the fifth most

HOCKEY

University's five titles

LOUGHBOROUGH University enjoyed a fine day in the Busa Halifax Hockey finals at the Milton Keynes National Stadium, winning five of the six titles (Tim Gallico writes). Loughborough men's first XI upset Brunel West London 5-4, but enjoyed an easier game in the men's second-XI fi-

hal, beating Durham 2-0. Loughborough women's first XI secured their fifth successive championship with a 4) win over the University of Birmingham. The second XI team beat Cambridge 4-0. while the third XI were held I-I by the University of Wales. Institute Cardiff, before winning the title 4-1 on penalty flicks.

was drained by the demands on her time, satisfied with what she had achieved, and perhaps lacking a little oomph. She was still No I on the United States money list for the third time in four years, player of the year for the third time in four years, and winner of the Vare Trophy for the third time in four years, with the lowest scoring average ever, 69.99. Now she is ready to grind again. Heaven help the rest.

Nilsmark, both now coached by Martin Hall, husband of Lisa Hackney, their Solheim Cup team-mate, are also reappearing after a break.

Nicholas, who won in Hawaii and then had the lowest round of her career, a 64, in Australia, was confined to the driving range at home in Birmingham because most courses were waterlogged. She is, however, fit and well after last season and full of confidence again, unlike Laura Davies, the winner here from 1994 to 1997 inclusive, whose putting continues to

CRICKET

Sussex consider a move

SUSSEX will decide before the end of the year whether to stay at Hove, their home for the last 127 years. Tony Pigott. their chief executive, said yesterday that the committee would make the decision as soon as possible as the County Ground was "falling down around us".

Pigott said that the county would be "absolutely crazy" not to look at all their options and that any redevelopment of Hove would take at least ten years. "We can't say if we're staying at Hove or going at this stage." he said. "We are looking at all kinds of things at the moment.

"Whatever we do, we'll take it to the members with a proBY OUR SPORTS STAFF

posal and ultimately they will make the decision." Sachin Tendulkar, the India batsman, is likely to miss the one-day series against Pakistan and Sri Lanka because of a back injury, but he will be fit for the World Cup. The series starts tomorrow and ends on

Tendulkar. 25, returned home yesterday after consulting a British orthopaedic surgeon. "I have been advised to take two weeks' rest," he said. The back is still stiff and the doctor has prescribed some exercises. It should be OK soon."

Tendulkar may be brought back for the Champions Trophy against England and Pakistan in Sharjah from April 7 to 16. The Sharjah tournament will be India's last international engagement before the World Cup starts in England

on May 14. Tendulkar rushed back from England a week ahead of schedule to see his father, who is recovering from heart trouble in a Bombay hospital. Ashley Giles, the England slow left-arm bowler, has been given the all-clear to go on

Warwickshire's pre-season tour of South Africa. Giles had an injection in his left heel after he returned from the oneday series in Australia but managed to pass a fitness test at Edgbaston.

otre (T Hedgest 542, 3, Antrope (K Harnst 546, eo.g) 4, Tacparg (N Framing) and Senca (R Dean) 547, 6, Memerus (B Sollars) 559, 7, Thormopylae (M Tod) 570

SCHOOLS SPORT

RUGBY UNION: Storytums sevens: Under-16: Semi-finals: Hymers 21 Oratory 7, Sections 42 Somyturs 5 Final: Se-beigh 22 Hymers 7 Under-11: Final: Si Many's Holl. Storyturs 10 Merchant Tay-

SRA NATIONAL LEAGUE: Overter-finalis: Capital One Hotilingham 4 Edginston Pricey 1 (S Parke to D Herm 15:6.9-15:15-3, 15-13) D Evans lost to S Boowel 10-15: 15-4, 15-15, 10-15: L. Beachill of B Ball 15-14, 18-9, 16-10, J Neorite for C Leach 11-15: 15-4, 15-10, 15-10, N Grounger bt F-Geaves 9-5, 9-3, 9-1), Pothers Bar 3 Aspect Chilchester 2 (M Carris b) P Genever 15-7, 15-3, 15-12; Hogors bots in B Garner 5-15, 15-17: 10-15, J Devis bit M Harms 9-15, 15-16; 15-17, 15-15; D Swingth bit S Brand 9-6, 9-9, 9-6, House Guiller of Vall-13-15, 11-15; 12-15; S Wingth bit S Brand 9-6, 9-7, 9-6, Linds Guiller of Linds for Mington, 15-10, 15-9, S Meads host in T Hands 13-15, 15-3, 15-13, 2-15, 4-15, J Passel lost to J Dale 8-15, 12-15; 10-15, A Grant bit P Mington 15-12, 15-6, 15-7, S Course bit G Danes 15-8, 15-12, 15-6, 15-12, L Sammett bit M Greons-lade 15-8, 15-12, 15-14, L Charment bit M Greons-lade 15-8, 15-12, 15-15 Southershare Lings-Beld 2 (N Taylor lost to P Lebrason 3-9, 5-9, 9-5) Photoco bit T Garner 9-8, 9-3, 3-9, 7-9, 9-5) POOL S. DIMINDSHIPS

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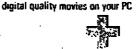
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BASKETBALL

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BELFAST: Women's home international indoor championality: Scotland bt tretand 165-102. England bt instand 129-83. Scotland bt Wales 135-103.

GOLF SUNNINGUALE FOURSOMES: Second normal New course: F Brown (Hoowall) and 8 Microan (Montropath) by D Chee and A Paarton (Montrop Park) 2 year 1, 8 Suandon and 5 Head (Goodacout) 1 hote of Hogoris Park by J Head (Goodacout) 1 hote of J Hogoris Park by Park Hote) and M McGarte (Stoneleech Park) by C Gold and S Mit (The Bowkhare) 2 and 1. M Paumber (Catheleech Park) by C Gold and S Mit (The Sowchare) 2 and 1. M Paumber (Catheleech Park) by C Gold and S Mit (The Coombe) and 1 Humann (Roce-on-Wyo) is S Robman and E Dungleby (Motor) on N Hote). J Putt (Summydae) and Montrop (Montrop) of M Scale and P Lawrence (Montrop (Montrop) 1 M Scale and M Palmer (St Goodgo's Hill 3 and 1 M Human and D Parto, (North Fortband) by A Robertson (Summydae) and A Northadog (Montrop) in J Lo D Murch and W Debs (Rogment Whyt is 8 Sands, and G Human (Broom Mann) 1 up. D Murch and L Summer (East Darsell et I. A Cawy and J Henghal (Walmer) by R Cowers, and S Ellot) (Herbary) 2 and 1. S Winderson) and L Rusher (Stoke Porjes) 5 and 4 A Cawy and J Henghal (Walmer) by R Cowers, and S Ellot) (Herbary) 2 and 1. S Winderson) in J Palman (Mit Boto and R Micro) (Fig. 1 to M. Palman (Mit Boto) and R Micro) (Fig. 1 to M. Palman (Mit Boto) and J Kood (Immer) (Sands) (Manner) (South) and J Lovol (Brokenhurs (Manner) (Botor) 1 and 1. L Walters (Crevn) and M Richard (Mit Gooden) 2 S Downford and N Markes (Botor) 1 and 3 S Downford and 8 Markes (Botor) 1 and 6 Micro) (Montrop) 3 and 1 Micros (Botor) 1 and 6 Micro) (Mit Herts) by G Evans (Earnel) and R Homodorn (Micro) and E Wason (Fortal to S Russe) and O Lornes (Montrop) 1 up. S Mor (Lerham) and R Hesson (Montrop) and R Hengel (Immer) and R Humann (Micro) a SUNNINGDALE FOURSOMES: Second

GSI and B Prin (Wobian) 2 up T Paterson Realithwhead and R Goudo (Epsem) of R Remed and C Forglen (Borpon Forgle) 1 up T Markwook (Swaft Windowsker) and I Roper (Corbanghor) at 1 P Remedia 1 up T Markwook (Swaft Windowsker) and I Roper (Corbanghor) at 1 P Remedia and G D Langmead (Hele Park) 1 to Swaft Broom Eleval Dubin) and N Fee (Port Marcela) 1 und R Jevec (Mart Beach) 3 and 1 M Sed (Broom Eleval Bould) (Triverso) and D A Corper (Brothwood) bit T Wheals (Marland) and R Jevec (Mart Beach) 3 and 1 M Sed (Broom Eleval West Beach) 3 and 1 M Sed (Broom Eleval Bould) (Maring), Helbill 4 and 3 S Andrew and K Andrew (Colfernor) bit M Landsberoegh and A Smith (Royal Andrews Forger) 6 and 5 D Cuptery (Couledon Marin); and J Edwards (Incide Park) bit V Dougdair (Sandrey) and M Brooms (Sandrey) and College (Sandrey) and M Remy (Brooms) and A Menhabola, Sand Mous 4 and 3 M Selfhouce and Y Ak (Ealing) the Pile pling and A Menhabola, Sand Mous 4 and 3 M Selfhouce (Sandrey) and K Good and R Summerscales (Frendel); 2 and 1. M Pile (Mobum) and A Hedges (Sandrey) and Councer Mach Neithers (Self-Control bit North and J Ha. (Waterstowle) 1 hole C Counce Mach Neithers (Self-Colland) Sandrey (Sandrey) and N Reely (Sundrey) and M Sandrey (Self-Control bit M Thompson (Cantered Mosta); and M Waters (Neumann) and S Sandre bit M Third Oliverson of Sandrey) and Schedul (Mothers Sandrey) and Schedul (Motherson) and Schedul believe (Motherson).

THIRD ROUND: Staurton and Scatterd to Brown and Margan 2 holes Planton and Harrison to Hagans and McGure 2 and 1 Beatman and Marcon to Puttland N Marcon beginning and Paris to March and Ducks 5 and 4. Rahmer and McFartune It White and Khun 3 and 2. Waters and McGest Johns and Maganny 4 and 3. Waters pin Johns and Maganny 4 and 3. Waters pin and Amber bt Dewrten and Ricewood 3 and 1. ALDERSHOT: Services championships: Veterante Army 2 Forel Navy 1. Junioris: Army 8 Forel Navy 1. Junioris: Army 8 Forel Navy 1 Sentioris: Army 4 Forel Navy 0 Women: RAF 2 Forel Navy 0 William 1 Forels: BUSA Helitizs championships: Firels: Bersel West London 4 Second XI: Loughborough 2 Durham 0. Third XI: Durnam 2 Bernangism 0. Women: First XI: Loughborough 4 Bernangism 0. Women: First XI: Loughborough 4 Bernangism 0. Women: First XI: Loughborough 4 Bernangism 0. Third XI: Loughborough 1 LWIC 1 (Loughborough am 4-1 on pens)

Morr and Wiscon bt Machel and Groe at 19th Patentin and Goude bt Sherry and Promotor 3 and 2. Marketck and Roper bt Lifete and Archindge at 24th, Side and Coase bt Sould and Coase at 19th Coasey and Edwinds bt Andrew and Andrew at 19th, Salthouse and Ab bt Tye and Bown 4 and 3. Creamer and Coapet bt Pilo and Hodges 7 and 5. MicColl and Sheids bt Gare and Rolly 4 and 3.

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL): Pitisburgh 2 Dallas 2 Nashville 2 Cargary 4 St Louis 5 Philosophus 2.

SAILING CUPPER ROUND-THE-WORLD RACE-Leg 3c (Strengtur to Hong Kong, with miles to linesh). 1, And (A Themson) 541, 2, Chrys-

FIXTURES

FOR THE RECORD

FOOTBALL Kick-off 7 30 unless まおed Cup Winners' Cup

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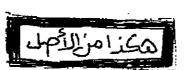
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Edgeste Pema Cap: Fourth round: Westimen Castalion, PONTINS LEAGUE: Third division: PONTIN'S LEAGUE: Third division: Witten's Southone (2 0)
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MINERYA SPARTAN SOUTH MIDLAND SEAGUE: Premier division: Lordon Coney v Harpenden, Somerset Ambury v Ruship Marso Welley's Gorden v Hampey OTHER SPORT

HOCKEY: Women's home nations tour-rement for DISC. Dunder! Under-18: Scatterd e Wates (2:30) England v Ireland (3:50) Under-16: Scattend v Wates (12:0). Ireland v England (14:5) ICE HOCKEY: Selonds play-off championship: Group & Stylied Seelers v Landon Knughs (7 30)

BRITTENS: Treble chance: 22pts 51.021.37.21.5730.20. Four drawer: 214.50 Five awayer: 2130. Eight homes: 27.90 LITTLEWOODS: Treble chance: 27pts 2574.566. 22 £1.894.30. 21 £87.05. 20 £15.96. Hell-time results dividend: £152.40 Four drawer: 238.10 Minch homes: £38.10 Minch homes: £38.10 Five awayer: 23.10 Minch homes: £39.0 VERMONS: Treble chance: 22pts £5.962.50. 21 £48.30. 20 £9.05 22 £17£RS: Treble chance: 22pts £5.962.50. 21 £48.30. 20 £9.05 22 £17£RS: Treble chance: £100. 20 £100.

POOLS DIVIDENDS



Palace's

£2 million

debt to

Venables

By Our Sports Staff

FOOTBALL

Ginola puts his case in writing

By NICK SZCZEPANIK

MEMBERS of the Football Writers' Association recently received their voting forms for Award. For many watching the game at Oakwell on Tuesday evening, their decision was made for them by David extraordinary winning goal against Barnsley, which put Tottenham Hotspur through to an FA Cup semi-final against Newcastle United, Ginola's former club.

Admittedly, Dwight Yorke. another leading contender for the award, has scored many more goals, but Ginola's have the edge in sheer spectacle, and his cup form is all the more remarkable when he was considered a likely casualty of the arrival of George Gra-ham as manager. Instead, he has thrived as Tottenham have advanced to one final, the Worthington Cup meeting with Leicester City at Wernbley on Sunday, and now to within one match of another.

"It was typical Ginola," Graham said of his 69th-minute goal against Barnsley, which saw the Frenchman escape the attentions of Nicky Eaden, who had subdued him for most of the first half, before dribbling past Clayton Blackmore, Robin Van Der Laan and Arjan de Zeeuw and hit-



Ginola: brilliant goal

ting a low shot past Tony Bullock. "He can be quiet for 45 minutes and then come alight. How people, even from the opposition, cannot admire his skill is unbelievable." If there were boos at Barns-

ley, they were prompted by Ginola's perceived part in the dismissal of Adie Moses, the Barnsley central defender, ten minutes before the goal. Mike Reed, the referee, showed Moses a yellow card for pulling back Ginola, then a second, within a minute, for a foul on Les Ferdinand, John Hendrie, the Barnsley manag-er, believed that the dismissal had turned the game.

"Our game plan was to keep Ginola quiet, and Adie Moses contributed to that. The second decision was a booking but certainly the first one wasn't. Reed has cost us a chance of the semi-finals of the FA Cup. without a doubt." Yesterday. Philip Don, the

Premier League referees' officer, came to the defence of Reed, who has been no stranger to controversy "Fifa is looking for consistency," Don said. "There are still times when the referee can use commonsense, but there are times when foul tackles go in that he has to apply the manda-tory instructions. Managers and players have to accept that. If the referee is being consistent, then he's not bothered whether it's a first or second bookable offence."

Graham now has a chance to equal his feat of 1993 when he managed Arsenal to victory in both domestic cup competitions. "As long as we're in the cups there is a possibility, but I'm not even thinking about it." Graham said. "I was pleased with the players last night because the way they approached the game was right." For Ginola, a further double is possible: Footballer of the Year and Goal of the Season.



Laurent Blanc, the Marseilles captain, embraces Stephane Porato, the goalkeeper, after their aggregate defeat of Celta Vigo Atletico ruin Italian takeover plan

By Our Sports Staff

ITALIAN clubs may have made the Uefa Cup something of their own property, but their hopes of achieving another landmark were dashed when Atlético Madrid came from a goal down to eliminate AS Roma and put an end to the prospect of a record three

teams from Serie A appearing in the semi-finals. Teams from Italy have won the trophy seven times in the past ten years and they went into the quarter-final, secondleg matches on Tuesday hoping for success for Parma, Bologna and Roma. The first two duly got through, but Atlético struck a blow for Spain when they came from behind to win 2-1 for a 4-2 aggregate success. Roma, who had taken the

lead through Marco Delvecchio, were beaten by goals from Carlos Aguilera and Rob-erto Fresnedoso and ended the match with only nine men, Pierre Woma having been sent off in the 28th minute and Francesco Totti following him at the end.

Bologna almost followed them out Leading 3-0 from the home leg, their advantage

was all but wiped out within 39 minutes in Lyons and they were later indebted to the woodwork before the French team, who had Florent Laville sent off four minutes from time, bowed out. No such trouble for Parma.

who crushed Bordeaux 6-0 for a 7-2 aggregate victory thanks to two goals apiece by Crespo and Chiesa.

The hopes of another Spanish team were dashed as Celta Vigo, who had beaten Aston Villa and Liverpool so impres-

came the most surprising casu-alties of the night. Trailing 2-! to Olympique Marseilles from the first leg, they were expected to recover the deficit, but Laurent Blanc and Pierre Issa, the Marseilles defenders, were outstanding as the French team held out for a goalless draw despite the best efforts of Alexander Mostovoi, the Russian winger, who was a constant threat.

The draw for the semi-finals will be made in Zurich tomorrow, with the ties taking place on April 6 and 20. The final will be played in Moscow on

RUGBY LEAGUE

aims to raise the standard

TERRY VENABLES is still owed £2 million by Crystal

Palace, it was revealed last night as the struggling club admit-ted its dire linancial plight. Palace, who play in the Na-tionwide League first divi-sion, have been forced to call THE new charter agreed by in administrators as the mon-ey owed to Venables, the former England coach, is only a fraction of their debts of £22

million, and they are losing a further £500,000 every month. The club has assets worth £13 million and Mark Goldberg, the chairman, who has already lost the £23 million that he paid to buy out Ron Noades last summer, has invested a further £1.5 million. Unless Goldberg and Buch-

ler, the administrator, can cut the huge wage bill, slash costs and attract new investment over the next three months, even their optimism will

count for nothing.
Palace's future will depend on agreeing terms with a long list of creditors, which include clubs such as Aston Villa, Liverpool and Juventus, as well as banks — but, most famously, Venables and his former assistants at the club.

Venables was paid his £750,000 annual tax-free salary last summer when he took over, as well as being given a Mercedes, the use of a house, an interest-free loan and a cut of revenue from player sales. Palace anticipate that the settlement of the four years remaining on his contract will cost them a further £2 million. Like many other creditors,

however, he is expected to have to agree to part-payment or to accept shares in the club. Goldberg said: "It is easy to say in hindsight that it was a foolish deal, although there are clubs where managers are

offered similar deals and it has been a great success." He gave warning that Pal-ace were not alone and that the plight of the club should remind other clubs not to "chase the dream" of an instant return to the FA Carling Premiership by continuing to pay inflated salaries.

Charter

By Christopher Irvine

coaches of the fourteen JJB Super League clubs with Greg McCallum, the Rugby Football League referees' director, will be keenly watched when it comes into operation in the match tomorrow at Headingley between Leeds Rhinos and Wigan Warriors, the grand fi-nalists last season.

McCallum returned this season to his position after two years in Australia and found that disagreements and discrepancies were harming the smooth running of the game, particularly in the high number of penalties and professional fouls at the play-the-ball.

The charter clarifies the

rules regarding the tackled player regaining his feet and making contact on the ball with his foot as it is played. and defending players not in-terfering with the play-the-ball process. It is intended to reduce the numbers of penalties and produce a more flowing spectacle and will be extended to the Northern Ford Premiership in the next two weeks.

Playing standards within the whole professional game have improved considerably in the last five years and it is essential that we have a consistent approach to the rules from everybody in the sport," McCallum said. Simon Haughton, the Wig-

an second row forward, faces a late fitness test and Rob Ball. a reserve team prop, who has made only one senior appearance, is on standby for a place on the bench. As Tony Smith is still recovering from an ankle injury, Mark Reber remains at scrum half in a starting line-up that is unchanged from the team that demolished Hull Sharks in Wigan's open-

ing Super League game. London Broncos can no longer be accused of not nur-turing British talent, with four development players now in the first-team squad. Dominic Peters, 20, from Acton, makes his second full appearance in the game at Sheffield Eagles on Saturday, alongside Peter Gill, who returns from suspension, in the back row. Shane Millard is on the bench after a groin operation.

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Refs show

In Australia, Adrian Rainey, of Sydney Wests, is decid-ing whether to appeal against the validity of his positive test for a banned steroid Rainey could challenge the Australian Sports Drug Agency's antidoping procedures on the grounds that his sample was allegedly left unattended for what is thought to have been

between 15 and 20 minutes. Rainey was due to have appeared before the National Rugby League drugs tribunal yesterday, but received a stay of proceedings. The alleged breach in testing procedures could save him from a minimum two-year suspension.

YOU'RE LATER AND YOU KNOW YOU ARE)

IN BRIEF

■ BIRMINGHAM City are expected to sign David Holdsworth today from Sheffield United. The clubs reed a 11.25 millior fee for the 30-year-old defender. Holdsworth will be offered a 41/2-year contract. Kasey Keller, the Leicester City goalkeeper, has delayed a decision on his future until the summer. The United States international, whose contract expires at the end of the summer, is waiting to

open talks on a new deal. ■ Coventry City have taken disciplinary action against John Aloisi for a sending off that leaves Coventry facing a striker shortage for the Premiership game away to Arsenal on Saturday. Aloisi was dismissed after striking out at Danny Mills, the Charlton Athletic defender. and his three-match ban will

start against Arsenal. Noel Whelan is also suspended. Duncan Ferguson is on the verge of a return to action after a three-month injury lay-off. Ferguson, 27, trained with the Newcastle United squad yesterday for the first time since having surgery on a groin injury picked up on December 28. Newcastle have received a bid from Norwich City for Paul Dalglish. Bruce Rioch, the Norwich manager, has already had an approach to take the forward on loan

turned down. Everton are hopeful that Craig Short, their defender, will sign a new contract before the transfer deadline expires. Short, 30, is a free agent at the end of the season and Everton hope to arrange a transfer for a nominal fee if he does not agree a new deal. Colchester United have signed José Antunes Fumaca, a Brazilian midfield player. He was spotted playing for Grimsby reserves.

Dundee facing disrepute charge

DUNDEE could be charged By Phil Gordon by the Scottish Premier League (SPL) for bringing the cent of Dundee's shares said. "There is a clause in the SPL's articles which allows for

game into disrepute following the admission that it has been involved in investment negotiations with Giovanni di Stefano, a businessman who is wanted for questioning by the United Nations for alleged war crimes.

The club is to be investigated by the SPL and Roger Mitchell, the SPL chief execu-tive, confirmed yesterday that he has asked the Dens Park board to reveal the extent of its dealings with Di Stefano, who claims he has bought 10 per

AUTO WINESCREENS SHIELD: Northern section: Fixel, first leg: Wigan 2 Windown 0 Southern section: Fixel, second leg: Walsait 1 Malwed 1 (Malwell and 2-1 on agg)
NATIONWIDE CONFERENCE: Cretenhand Parthorough 0, Leek Town O Southpart 0; Northwich 1 Doncaster 3; Ruchden and Damonds 2 Dover 2; Weiling 1 Stavenage 1; Wolsing 0 Keeting 0.
TENNENT'S SCOTTISH CUP: Fithmound replay: Dunde Util 2 Ayr 1.
SCOTTISH LEAGUR: Thand division: Albon 0 Montrose 0
UNIBOND LEAGUE: Premier division: Albon 0 Montrose 0
UNIBOND LEAGUE: Premier division: Alfrectin 3
Eastwood Town 0. Trafford 2 Droyleden 1
President's Cup: Semi-firmal, first leg: Lorgh RM 1 Rundom 0 Challenge Cup: Fourth round: Salybridge Cefts 5 Bissoodh 2

Fourth round: Stalybridge Cettl. 5 Bisspoots 2.

DR MARTENS LEAGUE: Premier division: Bath 0 Wicroster 6, King's Lyrn 0
Bromsgrove 0, Rothwell 0 Grantham 1
Middland division: Bedworth 2 Excelvan
1. Blakenall 1 Canderland 0: Blowech 0 Weston-super-Mare 1; Redditch 0 Stourbridge 1, Shepshed Dynamo 2 Handley 3;
Stafford 6 RC Warwick 1 Southern division: Ashtord 1 Andover 1, Bashley 2 Yate
1; Folkestone Inviola 3 Newport 10W 0;
Rounds 2 Fisher 2 Wilney 1 Harary and
Waterlooville 1

RYMAIN 1 FACUSE - Dremlar distribute

RYMAN LEAGUE: Premier division: Aldershot Town 1 Puriled: 1: Bichop's Stor-

worth £800,000, which would be used to help fund urgent redevelopment work at the If the SPL does not already

find Di Stefano's unsavoury past unpalatable enough, then he would certainly not have impressed them yesterday when he claimed, in an interview, that President Saddam Hussein was one of his heroes. We have contacted Dundee to find out what is going on as we feel we must act quickly to

TUESDAY'S LATE RESULTS

wood 3; Met Poice 1 Marlow 0; Withern 1; Hartow 2: Wolkingham 0. Leighton 1. Teilad divisites: Counthian Casuals 0 Dorking 1; East Thurnock 2 Homehurch 3; Egham 1; Lewes 2; Flackwell Health 1 Epsom and Eveil 6; Kingsbury 1 Tilbury 3; Ware 3 Southall 0. FA PREMIER ACADEMY LEAGUE; Under-19: Man City 1 Crewe 0 FA OF WALES: Premier Cup: Quarter-finat: Barry 1 Methyr 0. Wit SM C LID Counthin, first persister late.

nat 0
AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION:
First division: Porismouth 0 Cheisea 1;
Reading 0 Charleon 1, Swindon 1 Arsenal
0, Cochester 2 Crystal Palace 1
TONITION 1 Francis

Reading 0 Charton 1, Swindon 1 Arsenal
0, Coichester 2 Crystal Palace 1
PONTRI'S LEAGUE: Premiter division:
Locks 1 Preston 1. First division:
Locks 1 Preston 1. First division: Octhem 2 Sheffeld Wed 2, Port Vale 0 Burntey
2 Third division: Halifa: 1 Rochdale 2
COURAGE COMBINED COUNTRIES
LEAGUE: Premiter division: Chessington and Hook 2 Netherne 0, Chipsicad 0
Westfield 2: Farnham 4 Walton Casuels 0,
Reading 1 Cobham 1; Viking Sports 2
Raynes Park Vale 0.
NORTHERN COUNTRIES EAST
LEAGUE: Premiter division: Glesshoughton Weture 2 Burton 1; Malthy MW
6 Triackley 2.

clear this issue up," Mitchell

dee, the spirit of the clause means that no individual should be able to bring the league into disrepute." Peter Marr, the Dundee chief executive, has denied that any deal with Di Stefano has been finalised but

steps to be taken against a di-

rector, employee or player

who brings the league into

disrepute. While Mr Di Ste-

fano is not a director of Dun-

admitted he has spoken to the Anglo-Italian entrepreneur

LEAGUE: Premier division: Cogerhoe 6 Eyneshury 0: Ford Sports 0 Buckingham 1. Skotod 2 Yasky 1. URMLET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE: First division: Ringmer 0' Easthourne Town 0, Wick 1 Burgess Hei 1. WINSTONLEAD KENT LEAGUE: Pre-mier division: Ent 0 Beckenham 1: Heme Bay 0 Faversham 1.

about investing in the club. Last month, the SPL gave warning to Dundee that the club faces demotion unless work is completed on new stands by July 31, but the club admits it is £1.2 million short of funding. Di Stefano, who grew up in Northampton but moved to Belgrade a decade ago, is vice-

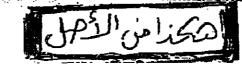
chairman of PC Obilic, the

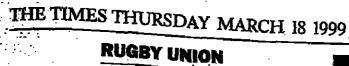
Yugoslav champions, whose owner, Zelkjo Raznatovic, is wanted by the UN concerning alleged war crimes in Bosnia. Raznatovic, is also allegedly wanted by police in Sweden

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La Tania Les Arcs		Pak Fak	300	Spring Spring	Sun Sun	5 8/3 3 8/3
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PASS WITH CONTROL, PRECISION AND CONSIDENCE





France put accent on World Cup ambitions

By DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

of necessity, have dismissed the Five Nations Championship match against England at Twickenham on Saturday as no more than a stepping stone on the way to the World Cup. That may be easier for Pierre Villepreux, the coach, to say than for his players, who have not lost to England in the past four encounters, to believe.

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It says something about their long casualty list that only seven of the players who put England to the sword in Paris a year ago appear this weekend. Five forwards and the two half backs feature in a starting XV that shows six changes, one positional, from the side beaten by a single point by Wales.

Pascal Giordani, 24, the compact Dax centre who has worked his way through the representative ranks, is the only newcomer, in the absence of Richard Dourthe. Xavier Garbajosa replaces Philippe Bernat-Salles on the wing and the back row is reshuffled, Richard Castel making a rare start at flanker - he is usually kept in reserve as an impact player - alongside Christophe Juillet at No 8. Thomas Lièvremont moves to blindside flanker, but the clattering sound is the dropping to the

bench of Christian Califano. Last season Califano, the

FRANCE, making a virtue out his kind in the world. Named player of the season by the Rothmans Rugby Yearbook, he was not only a fine technical exponent of tight-forward play but his skill in the loose was also devastating. His cap against Wales was his 41st and he is still only 26, but on Saturday he gives way to the equally mobile Stade Français prop. Sylvain Marconnet.

There is a belief in France

that Califano has required longer to recover from a disc problem that prevented him from playing for three months at the start of the season. Califano was replaced by Marconnet at the interval as France struggled to beat Ireland 10-9 last month and Ben Evans, the young Swansea prop in his first international season. seemed comfortable enough against him in Paris. There is every chance that Califano will make an entry at some stage against England, but he does not appear to be the play-

er he was. This game is important for the English because they still have ambitions about winning the grand slam," Villepreux said, "but for France all that is important now is the World Cup. This next game will be interesting for us to see where we are, but the result is not a major concern. It will show us exactly what we can do against England as both sides that much harder."



Richard Hill takes possession as the England forwards train at Twickenham yesterday

ers in the World Cup."

However, Villepreux is concerned enough about the threat posed by England's back five. "The fact that they have Tim Rodber in the second row has made the back row even stronger," he said. "Those are the main threats our players will have to look out for. Obviously the fact that we have been weakened by our own injuries will make it

While England trained in bright sunshine at Twickenham. Wales prepared for their visit to Italy with a session at Swansea. They leave for Treviso today with George Costes, the Italy coach, whose side will be confirmed tomorrow, anxious about the revitalised form of Neil Jenkins.

"He was completely transformed [against France] from last year." Costes said. "He seems a totally different play-er. He was superb in Paris

and Graham Henry must take the credit for that. The team obviously understands what Graham is trying to achieve."

FRANCE: E Marmack (Toulouse), X Garba-josa (Toulouse), P Giordani (Dext., F Com-be (Stade Franças), T Lomberd (Stade Franças); T Castaignède (Castres), P Car-tenesses, Grant S. Marmanet (Stade

Telfer opts for continuity Johns decides to return to Ulster

By Alasdair Reid

RONIC as it may be the Telfer was born on St Patrick's Day, the Scotland coach was yesterday able to celebrate his 59th birthday by announcing no changes to the side to play Ireland at Murrayfield on Saturday from the one that lost to England a month ago. Of all the things Telfer has learnt in his time, the value of consistent selection must rank highly. The Scotland team that

played at Twickenham did, of course, make the task a little easier, with a powerful, albeit losing, performance. With Gary Armstrong restored to the side — he missed the international against Italy because of an arm injury — Telfer clearly hopes that the momentum of Scotland's display against England will carry over into the Ireland match. In saying that, however, he also sounded a cautionary note. "We have to be careful to



but adds conditions

Telfer: cautionary note

ensure that the players do not become complacent," Telfer said. "Continuity is all very well, but we have to make it clear to our players that others are still pressing for their positions. They are under no illu-sions that they have to improve on their performance against Italy."

Telfer is almost obliged to rate the Irish, having coached four of their chosen pack with the British Isles in South Africa two years ago. Three of SARACENS may have lost those players - Paul Wallace, one international lock tempoidson - were among the Ireland tight forwards outplayed by England 12 days ago, but Telfer dismissed any suggestion that they are anything but formidable opponents. "The front five are very experienced internationals and very able players," he said.

Telfer drew just as little from the fact that Scotland have not lost to Ireland since 1988. He said: "We have had very close games both in Dublin and at Murrayfield in the same period."

SCOTLAND: G H Metcalte (Gasgow Catedonises): C A Murray (Edinburgh Reivers), A V Talk (Edinburgh Reivers), A A Lastie (Sanno), K M Logan (Waspa): G P J Townssend (Brive), G Arasstrong (Newcastle Falcons), T Sentih (Sasgow Caledonians), A C Butiliosh (Gissgow Caledonians), A P Burnell (London Scotlish), A Murray (Bedford), S B Grimes (Clasgow Caledonians), P Watton (Newcastle Falcons), M D Lestile (Edinburgh Reivers), E W Peters (Beth) Replacements: S 4. Longstelf (Gissgow Caledonians), C M Chalmess (Edinburgh Reivers), 1 T Pathay (Edinburgh Revers), A C Pounthry (Northampton), A J Reed (Waspa), D 1 W Hitton (Bsth), S J Brotherstone (Edinburgh Revers).



to return to Ulster sooner rather than later. He joined Saracens on a one-year contract and renewed for a second year; he was eager to give professional rugby a chance but behind him he has qualifications as a dentist and four years of practice in

Newry. "Paddy is looking towards the future, both in dentistry and because his two children will need to be settled in schools," Mike Scott, the Saracens team manager, said. That Ulster, as European



champions, are riding the crest of a wave will be an added incentive for Johns who will win his fiftieth cap for Ireland against Scotland on Saturday. His departure will leave Saracens, who lost a useful utility back-five forward in Ben Sturnham to Bath last summer, seeking a quality replacement and they have already been linked with Scott Murray, the Scotland

Cheitenham Going: good to soft

4.15 FEDERATION BREWERY CONDITIONAL HEXHAM JOCKEYS MARES HANDICAP HURDLE ROB WRIGHT

3 OFP2 MADGE MICSPLASH 16 (CD.S) Judieson 7-11-0 .7 Studies 50 7-11-0 .7 6-4 Mange McSoboh, 7-4 Brancepeth Bells, 4-1 Apollo s Daugnier, 13-2 Double Buck, 50-1 Meadowieck.

4.50 SHIRE BUILDING SERVICES HANDICAP CHASE (£3,236: 2m 4l 110yd) (12 runners)

5.25 BUCHANAN ALE HANDICAP HURDLE

(£2,023: 3m) (6 runners) 1 BP1 PHAR ECHO 6 (B.D.S) L Lunton 3-12-5 (6er). Mr B Gibson (7) 877
2 F1U3 ZAMMAREER 13 (D.F.G.S) A Ford 8-12-0 . M Horrocks (5) 76
3 10/6 PLKUNGTON 61 (D.S) J Howard Johnson 9-11-12 . M Harmity (5) 42
4 0345 FNE FLAGS 26 (F.C.S) Mr. S South 17-11-11 B Williamson (5) 75
5 SSU3 D'ARBUAY STRIERT 2 (B.G.S) W kamp 10-11-0 . B Storey 76
6 OP-P TOBY 13 (F.G) N Richards 6-11-0 . . B Harding — 2-1 Zamhares. 5-2 Phar Echo 4-1 Fine Flags, 9-2 D'Arbiay Steet, 70-1 Pakington, 20-1 Toby.

TRAINERS L. Lungo, 22 winders, from 90 runners, 24.4%, G.M. Moore, 19 from 19, 24.1%, 5 Bell, 3 from 18, 16.7%, Pasamond, 7 from 50, 14.0%, M. Hammond, 11 from 85, 12.9%, M. Fodurier, 5 from 41, 12.2%, JOCKEYS, N. Hansiby, 4 witners, born 17 trides, 23.5%, R. Williamson, 4 from 25, 16.0%, J. Callagitan, B. Iom 56, 13.8%, R. Guest, 19 from 73, 13.7%, B. Callagit, 3 from 30, 10 Dr.S. Duly qualifiers.

LINGFIELD PARK

2.25 Turkish Tower. 3.00 Quick March. 3.35 Parions Boy. 4.15 Brancepeth Belle. 4.50 Santa Jet.

2.25 FEDERATION BREWERY NOVICES CHASE

6 -500 DRUMOONNA 16 (5) P Beaumont 9-10-12 B Grattan (3)

1 2119 DURCK MARCH S3 (5) E Waynes 6-12-2 N Horrocks (5) [11]
2 6 ARSA(6 10 N Wagnet 5-11-3 S Taylor — 5 Taylor — 5 OPP- BLACK ASSET 385 (D.S.) R Food 8-11-3 Mr B Gason (7) — 4 3-06 HRT LODGE 7 J Daon 8-11-3 B Storey 72 5 0-5 SIGNAL PUBNT 79 D Lamb 8-11-3 B Storey 72 5 D-5 SIGNAL PUBNT 79 D Lamb 8-11-3 B Warden 7-00 COPP STEPPLEYS BRAC 33 N Richards 7-11-3 B Harding 50 7 0/64 THE COURTRY DON 27 K Morgan 7-11-3 A S Small —

4-9 Oulet March, 3-1 The Country Don, 14-1 Arsang, 20-1 Hirl Lodge, 25-1 Stephen's Base, 33-1 Black Abbey, Signal Point,

3.35 DENNIS WAGGOTT BUILDERS HANDICAP

-2 Sacarbester, 3-1 Bold Action, 9-2 Parsons Boy, 5-1 Kibby Bank, 7-1 Pink Gin. G-1 Carbition, 14-1 Stretk, 66-1 Scrippies Tower.

3.00 KEOGHANS NOVICES HURDLE

GOING: SOFT (HEAVY IN PLACES)

(\$2,988: 2m; 110yd) (6 numers)

(£2,259: 3m) (7 runners)

CHASE (£4,056: 4m) (8 runners)

ROB WRIGHT So Golden Lyric. 2.20 Pericles. 2.55 Palacegat Touch. 3.30 Emmajoun. 4,10 Philistar. 4.40 Sheer Native. 5.15 Denbrae.

GOING: STANDARD DRAW: 5F-1M, LOW NUMBERS BEST

1.50 Phillips batteries amateur riders

HANDICAP (Div I: £1,718: 1m) (12 runners)

2.20 CUSTOM CARE COMPANY COMMUNICATIONS CLAIMING STAKES (£2,760: 7f) (13 runners)

AMMING & LANGE (LL., 1996.)

1 6/6 BROUGHTONS MILL 22 W Marson 4-9-10 __R Cochrane 11
2 0-53 KINGNO 14 6 L Moore 5-9-10 __R Bristand (7) 3
3 2422 SPEEDY CLASSIC 14 (CD.F) M Hacton-Elis 10-9-10 A Clark 9

4 5646 ANOKATO 19 (V.C.F) Mrs N Macouley 5-9-9
Dean McKeener 7 0016 GENEUS 2 (C) D Caeoman 4-9-7 A Custome 1 8 0650 PRIVATE SEAL 2 (B.P.) J. C Pouton 4-9-4 Myeave 12 9 0-00 COURTINEY 67M 10 (8) P Europoje 4-9-3 128 7 10 2064 PLBM 6A2 16 (C.5.) R U.Sulliven 6-9-3 ... 5 Sanders 10 11 00-0 MMSS SKYE 21 (C.) MSS 8 Sanders 4-9-1 ... P Doc (3) 5 12 0005 PEAPLY (ULEEN 17 6 Brasery 4-8-12 ... M Ferrors 8 13 44 TUFAMORE 15 K Burke 3-8-11 ... D Williams (7) 13

5-2 Anokalo, 9-2 Speedy Classic, 17-2 Genes, 6-1 Broughtons ASII, 7-1 Tutamore, 8-1 Kinnaho, 12-1 Best Ouest, Periodes, 20-1 others.

2.55 t.d.k. u.k. claiming stakes

(\$2,107: 6f) (8 runners) 1 1132 KRYSTAL MAX 14 (CD.F) T Mills 6-10-0 L Carter 3 2 2-40 MUTASAWMAR 63 (B,CD,S) M Saunders 5-10-0

2 2-40 MJTASAWWAR 63 (B,CD,S) M Saunders 5-10-0 P Doe (3) 5
3 4133 PALACEGATE TOUCH 27 (B,CD,F,G,S) J Berry 9-9-10
4 40-4 BOLDLY CLIFF 49 (B,D) A Hermans (Bel) 5-9-8 C Dehens 6
5 00-0 AFTER BERNT 63 (B,CD) M Saunders 4-9-6 R Prize 2
6 0132 CHALLIZ 12 (BF,D) M Lutmoder 5-9-6 L J Curry 7
7 0807 WHIZZ KID 471 (F) J Bradley 5-8-11 Strowne 4
8 3145 LIGHT BREEZE 12 (CD) 6 L Moore 3-8-4 R Brisland (7) 1

7-4 Krystal Max., 11-4 Polacegale Touch, 6-1 Bolelly Clift, 7-1 Light Breeze, 6-1 Chafur, 10-7 Mediasanner, 16-1 Alter Gotte, 33-1 Wildz Kul

3.30 E.E.S. LIGHTNING HANDICAP

(£3,556: 5f) (9 runners)

8 0033 DANCE TIMES 12 (B.D) K from 4-7-10 C 9 2565 DANCING JACK 16 (CD) J Bridger 6-7-10 Bri 5-2 Emmakum, 3-1 Tear White, 7-2 Souked, 7-1 Palacegair Jack, 10-1 others.

4.10 NESTLE FOODSERVICES HANDICAP

(£6,215: 1m 2f) (12 runners) 1 1122 THECRYART 15 (BF.CD) M Johnston 4-9-13 ... D Holland R
2 1352 PHILISTAR 16 (E.CD.F.G) N Bulke 6-9-11 ... D Sweetey 12
3 0265 FALLET TO HIT 22 (B.CD.F) N Latimoties 6-9-10 ... J Take 6
4 -110 BANK ON HAN 16 (CD) E I Moke 4-9-10 ... J Quere 7
5 D-00 HERR TRISEER 16 (L.CD.F) D J Scarpi 6-9-6 A Culterier 10
6 00-5 SEA DANZES 16 (CD.F.E) J Brogs 6-9-3 ... B Bustard (7) 1
7 400- ASPIRANT DANCER 182 (D.S.) M Bell 4-9-2 ... M Fenton 8
4 550- MOKLA 249 M Ryar 4-9 1 ... D Hayden (7) 4
9 0-11 LAW DANCER 15 (D) T Milk 6-9-0 ... Lisa Hasdest (7) 2
10 0-03 NESHT ELYER 25 (S) J Holls 4-9-13 ... M Halls 11
11 -121 SCRAGGYS DREAM 33 (CD) P Milkel 3-8-13 R Cochrane 11
12 2363 N CH SAGA 21 (B.CD.P) Burguer 1-8-3 ... F Nortons 2
11 1-2 Scraggys Dream 6-3 Philister 7-1 Brok On Him. See 7-2 Thetryaeti. 11-2 Scrappys Dream, 6-1 Philistar, 7-1 Bank On Him, Se Danzig, 10-1 Aspirasi Dance, Law Dancer, Ki Cin Saga, 12-1 other:

4.40 R.E.S. GROUP CLASSIFIED STAKES (£3,572: 1m 4f) (5 runners)

5.15 PHILIPS BATTERIES AMATEUR RIDERS Dicap (Div il: 11,708, 1m) (12 runters).

1 -234 GADGE 5 (CD.F.G.S) A Base, 5-11 " Miss Shitge Gerebange (5) 3 2 -544 WANGN BEACH 33 (B.CD.F.G) G L Morre 8-11-4 2 -544 WARRU BEACH 33 (B,CD,F,G) G L More 8-1;-4
3 29-0 RODERICK HUDSOM 293 (F) J R Position 7-1;-3
4 0-31 DEMBRAE 17 (F,G) J Position 7-1;-3
5 -020 FAMOUS 21 (V,D,F,G,S) J Budger 6-1;-5 ... D Bendger (S) 7
5 -220 LAMDRERN 21 (D) H Collegager 4-10-13 D H Durssom (S) 6
7 5055 DESERT BAVADER 17 (D,S) 0 Catoman 3-10-9 Also R Clark 1
7 100 MeJ. OMANIA 77 (CD) P Horeing 7-10-7 Mess C Haddow (S) 4
9 -534 JONATHAN'S GIRL 33 J Budger 4-10-3 ... Mass R Britain (S) 8
10 1250 CLOROR 21 (C,D,F,S) R logism 5-10-3 Mass L Michaelos (7) 2
11 0-26 ZARRISKE 126 L Moras 5-10-2 ... Mass J Khore 12
12 DSD SUMBAWA 169 J Bradley 4-10-2 ... Mass F J Jornes (3) 9 7-2 Denbrae, 5-1 Gadge, 8-7 Depart Invades, Jonathan's Got, 10-1 piners.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRANSERS. J Berry 28 winners from 139 namers 20.1%, B Hats, 15 hop 77 195%, D Chapman, 24 from 127, 19.9%, M Selt. 16 hom 160, 18.0%, M Johnston, 49 from 285, 17.1%, V Sogne, 8 from 49, 16.3%. JOCKEYS R Clark, 3 womers from 12 notes 25.0%, 6 Geest, 3 from 12 25.0%, 7 Wasser, 70 from 322, 21.7%, 0 Holland, 40 from 193, 20.7%, 1 Carter, 4 from 21, 19.0%, 8 Steet, 3 from 17, 17.6%.

RFU refuses to enter the Cotton trade

The Rugby Football Union has rebuffed an offer by the Reform Group to drop its motion of no confidence in the union hierarchy in exchange for key roles for Fran Cotton and Bill Beaumont. The group wanted guaranteed places for Cotton, their chairman, and Beaumont on the management board as the price to pay for abandoning a special general meeting.
In addition they wanted Cot-

ion to be appointed chairman of the National Playing Committee and Beaumont installed as one of the union's international Board representarives. "We will not be blackmailed by ultimatums and bully-boy tactics," an official said. It means the special meeting

goes ahead - the date and venue of which will be announced by next Tuesday. The Reform Group wants to overthrow the entire board with the exception of Peter Trunkfield, the president, and Francis Baron. the chief executive.





Saving Wales

The chances of Wales playing South Africa to mark the opening of the Millennium Stadium in Cardiff on June 26 are fast receding. Vernon Pugh has admitted that the building timestable is so fight building timetable is so tight that the contractors might not be able to afford to stop work for the three weeks that it will take to lay and bed down the pitch and clear up again afterwards: -

South Africa want to play and suggest that if the game is called off then Wales could go to Johannesburg after their tour to Argentina. In an emergency it sounds like a good idea.

Refs shown door Richmond are not the only club to feel the effects of Ashley Leveu's decision to pull out of rughy. The monthly meeting of the Hampshire RU Referees' Society was due to be held at Winchester RFC—also owned by Levett - on Monday, but the doors were locked and the lights turned out.

Troubled times

Were Irish rugby supporters of 70 years ago the first sport-ing hooligans? The *Irish* Times of February 13 1929 reported that "steps are to be taken by the English Rugby Union to prevent a recurrence of the cushion-throwing scenes which occurred after the game at Twickenham on Saturday last. At one time hundreds of leather cushions were thrown about with disregard of the possible danger to

Engineer-Commander Cooper, the RFU secretary, was not amused. The trouble was caused by supporters of the Irish team who were carried away in the excitement of their victory over England," he said. Ireland won 6-5. One wonders what might happen if they win at Murrayfield for the first time since 1985.

Driven by Ford

Catch them young. Ford, the motor company, is pumping £750,000 over the next three years in joining the RFU in setting up a grassroots programme to develop Tag Rugby in primary schools throughout England. You can discover what it's all about at Twickenham on Saturday when a demonstration will be held before England play France.

Front to fore

The Thornensians club in South Yorkshire could provide the entire front row for the England 18 Club side that takes part in an international festival in Edinburgh next



month. Richard List and Andrew Gravil, the props, and Andrew Nurns, the hooker, have all been included in the 26-strong squad, as has their colleague Martin Crabtree, a wing. The matches will be the first internationals played by the England 18 Club Squad since its formation six months

Carling helps Will Carling will be the star guest at a charity match in

support of Disability Sport, England on Sunday. It takes place at RAF Halton rugby club to raise funds for the charity that was started in 1961 by Professor Sir Ludwig Guttman to provide sport and leisure opportunities for adults and children with disabilities.

Cronin tribute

Gavin Hastings and Lawrence Dallaglio will be among a galaxy of big names paying tribute to Damian Cronin at a testimonial dinner for the former Scotland international at the Kensington Hilton, London, on April 22. Cronin, 35, renred last autumn because of a knee injury. For further information contact Dennis Harding on 0181-940 0944.

RESULTS FROM YESTERDAY'S THREE MEETINGS

Goings good to soft

2.00 (2m 5f hole) 1, BARTON (L. Wwer, 2-1 fav), 2, Artadoin Lad (M A Picaperaid, 25-1);

3, Winshan Riun (G Tormey, 100-1) ALSO RAN, 11-4 Alexander Barrquet, 6 Behragen (5th, 17 Rash Pemari, 14 Goodmin George, 16 Arctic Comper (6th), Kings Road (4th), 28 inch Barler, 33 Glazessay, 40 Castle Owen, 50 Windross, Whiter Garden, 66 Nouveau Chevet, Tara-Brogen, 100 Heros, Falad, 250 Maddslone Magnet, 18 rain NR Cardinal Hill St. 1, 3-3 4, 1-4 T Easterby at Matton Tote 52-80, 51-50, 29-50, 555-00 DF 526-20 CSF 535 Tricast 53,989 74, 3-4 4, 1-4 T Easterby at Matton Tote 52-80, 51-50, 29-50, 555-00 DF 526-20 CSF 535 Tricast 53,989 74, 3-4 54, 1-4 T Easterby at Matton Tote 52-80, 51-50, 19-50, 555-00 DF 526-20 CSF 535 Tricast 53,989 74, 10-6 Lord Doroca 13 rain 10-6 Lord Doroca 13 rain 10-6 Lord Doroca 13 rain 14, 3-9, 3-3, 3-4, 81 P Nicholts at Stepton Mallet Tote 54-40, 52-20, 200, 52-50 DF 56-70 Trifecta 545-90 CSF 512-05 Tricast 550-57 3,15 (2m Strinder), 16-11, 2 Milliomistad C CDwee, 33-11, 3-19, 30 Millionistad C CDwee, 33-11, 3-19, 18-10 Rain 14, 1-10 Rain 50, 18-10 Riom. F Suon, 14-3), ALSO RAN 13-2 lev Archive Foolage, 11 Easier Ross fell). Ferbel Junior 14 Gailfax, Naties Cherm, Masser Pignim, 16 Robio, 20 Kingomais, Pota Prospect, Snow Dragon, 25 Bluedom, Scattle Sweep, Supreme Lach, 28 Farlació V, 32 Dom Beltrano, Fadialio (1611). Felhin Joéla (511). Rainbow Fromer, Ramwatch, 40 Alegation, Bakker, Better Ofter, Challenger du Luc, Ela Agapa Mou, 50 Deraydan, Phar Leva Hassier 30 ran Hd. n., 51 on n.d. 41 CR Roche at Curragn. Co Kidder. Totel. 529 90, 55 20 97,69 CB 10 29 90 DF £409.90 Tote Thiesta, not won - pool of £13,070 31 camed lowland to Chellenham 3 15 todey CSF £432.20. Thicast £5,864 73, 3,55 (3m 11 ch); 1 LONGS LIKE THOUBLE.

3 15 today CSP. EASE,20. Incast ES,894.73.
3.55 (3m II ch.) 1 LOOKS LIKE TROUBLE IP Corbeny, 16-11, 2 Lord Of The River (4 P. McCoy, 11-2), 3. Billingsgate (P. Holey, 25-1) ALSO RAN 5-4 fav Nich Dunder (1et), 9-2 Spendel, 12 Brother of Ins (1et), Nng-Sanler (5n), 25 Coller Bay (4n), 33 House Captan, 50 Sanuel Widerspin, 66 Executive Ring, 100 Audent Scoul, Ardmar, 190 Optimism Regns, 14 ran, Dist, 31 11, 71 Noet T. Chance et Lambourn Toter C17-70, 62-80, 51 90, 24-80 DP ES0.00 Tote Tritecta 56.716 40, CSP. 298-88 Tracst E2,006-56
4.201 (4m eth.) 1 DREJARVIDEE (46 Arthory Contact Dennis Hard-0181-040 0944.

A30 (4m ch) 1. DEE MYDEE (Mr Anthony Martet, 13-2), 2, Riot Leader (Mr A Dempsey, 10-1); 3 Spot The difference (Mr P Maloney, 13-2) ALSO RAN 6-1 fav Dempsey Mariot (4th), 10 Act in Time (5th), 11 Wesley Warnor (6th), 12 by Boy, Lady Mostiva, 14 Pedere, 18

PRICES SUBJECT TO FLUCTUATION. WILLIAM MILL FOOTBALL RULES APPLY TO OPEN A CREDIT ACCOUNT FREEPHONE 0800 289 892

Slavica, Stormy Syssion, 20 Startley Steamer, 25 Castle Red, Lothen Commander, Sharagore Warrior, 33 Broome Returns, No-Problem f8th, Onsorthraequariers, 56 Chategoot, 200 Boishie Beron, Wile Warmabe 21 ran, Ni, 6, 7, 10, 100. M Houngan at legion Tote 25.90 52.50 53 10 53.00 DF 550.90 52.50 53 10 53.00 DF 550.90 52.50 53 10 53.00 DF 550.90 52.50 53 Thotast 5415.59 5.05 52m 3f 110-of-bit Marketonia. CSF 980.30 Tricast \$415.59 8.05 (2m st 11) yd ch 1 ManiaDOU (A P Mc. Coy, 7-4 fay). 2 (Nigg of Sparts (C Maude, 33-1); 3, Wayward King (R Durwnoch, 25-1); 4, The Outbeck Way (R Walst, 10-1) ALSO RAN 15-2 Hoh Express. 10 Tridebrook, 12 Boardroom Studie. Listen Timmy, 16 Dr Bones, 20 Nearly An Eye (Isil), Northern Starsgot, 25 Peter The Parson, Sounds Lisle Furn (Stri), 28 All The Acres, Dark, Stranger 40 Philips Wood, (Sth.) 55 Bets Lise, 86 Coulton, 18 ran NR Linderts Lotto 16; nk, nk, 3, 21 M Proc at Westpool, Tole 22 AC, 51 So, 52 40, 51 20, 52 10 DF 109 40 CSF 251.53 The Cast \$1.055.59

23 O. 23 10 OF TUD9 40 CSF DST-93 In-cast D1.055 59

5.40 (2m 110)d fisal 1, MONSIGNOR (8 Pow-ell 50-1) 2, Golden Alpha IA P McCoy, 7-21, 3, Cansette (1 Cortoran, 25-1) ALSO RAN 11-4 lav Bilwertin, 11-2 Alexander Proz. 11 Mestre Sala, Scarlet Emperor, 12 Ingonssi, 16 Bilwell 168hy, 25 Ballet 44, 15th, Barney knows, Frosty Carryon, Togg Dancar, 33 No Fore-cast, Vanta Man, 40 Mett Holland, Queens Harbour, (4th), 50 Abskyno, Baccard, Be-harbour, (4th), 50 Abskyno, Baccard, Be-harbour, 100 Embryel, 200 Conspirito, 25 ran 114, 12, 44, 21, hd M Pirman at Upper Lan-bourn, Tole 1594, 20, 12 10, 12 50, 15 90 DF 1286/20, CSF £195 14 Theast 54, 304 65 Jackpot: not won (pool of £171,168.26 cav-ried forward to Cheltenham Lodaw). Placepot: £1,009.40. Quadpot: £215.80.

Huntingdon Goling: good to soft
1.50 (2m 5) 110yd hole! 1, Dunston Heath
(W Worthington, 16-1) 2 Inchydoney Boy
(10-1); 3, Colwed (3-1) Read-Fine (4th 5-2 is.9 ton 94, 21 B Leavy Tote: \$18.90; \$2.80,
\$2.00, \$1.50. DF \$68.70; \$5F \$13.08 Incast: \$489.17
2.20 (2m 5) 110yd hole! 1, Ashgan (F Wakeley, 100-30), 2, Burn Cut (10-1), 3, Anugraha
(50-1); Audacter 5-2 lay 17 ran 4, 214 lan Williams, Tote 12.50, \$1.90, \$12.20, \$17.50. DF

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: FLORIDA PEARL (3.15 Cheltenham)

E20 80 CSF E23 18
2.55 (3m ch) 1. Wren Wartster (A S Smith 15-2), 2. Moorhighter (5-1); 3. Torn Pinch (4-1 lav) 12 cm; 110-2). Mrs P Rebeson Tote E3 77; E3:20, 12:50 DF E30 50 CSF E43 55. Tricast E162 3.
3.30 (2m 110yd hole) 1, Earp Miss P Roberon, 7-11; 2. Captam Boggles (5-1), 3, Aka International (7-4 lav) 8 rgn *4, 7 F Martight Tote S12:20, 63 10, 16, 05, 17 0 DF E19 10 CSF E39 10 Tricast E80 52
4.10 (3m 21 right) 1, Title (5-1), 2.

CSF CSR 10 Tricest E89 52
4.10 (3m.2) rider 1. Tilly (Gary Lyons, 6-1), 2.
Grunge (6-1), 3. Secte The Day (2-1 last) 8 can
1.4. 1.4. A Sarsetar Tote CB 60 63 10 52 70.
CT 80 DF C92 20 CSF, 55 132 Tricest,
51 20 83
4.40 (2m et 110yd chy 1, Trouble Ahead (P Walkey, 5-4), 2. No More Hassis (10-11 layt, 3
Murpery (20-1) 4 ran 51 dist & Bailey Tote
52 70 DF 51 10. CSF 52.62
5.15 (2m 110yd lab) 1. Reportures (5 kmhr 2-4) La 70 Or 121 10. CSF 1252 5.15 L2m 110 yd llati 1, Reonlyme (S Kelly, 2-1 lav) 2, Yunnel Hal Lad (20-1) 3, Maritamia (20-1) 12 ran NR Qualitar Survivor 3, 13 Mass Veneda Wilsons Tota (230) 07 40, C7 40, C2 90 DF 025 80 CSF 151 42 Discounted (231 27) Placepot: £121.70. Quadpot: £13.00.

Newton Abbot

Golog: soit 1.35 (3m 2f 110yd chi 1, True Fortane (R Widge: 6.4 lay) 2, Rocky Park (4-1), 3, Bush 00 (8-1) 5 ran Des, day V Darinel Tote 52 10: £1 40, £2 00 DF £8 40 CSF £7 11 22 10; C1 40, 52 00 DF 58 40 CSF 57 11
2.25 (2m of hole) 1 Blue Blazzer (1 O Connot, 6-4 law), 2, The Minder (13-2), 3, Felmouth Gay (13-2), 7 ran 114, 131, 6 ross 1 fote 52 20
21 80, 12-80, DF 615 60 CSF 611-25
3.05 (2m 110yd cm) 1, Step In Line (1) Frost, 5-11, 2 Berny (10-1), 3, Flezzer Mandate (5-4 law) 7 ran, 111, 77 R Frost Tate 55 60, 1190, 52 30 DF 617 70 CSF 536 13 Hold You All (10-30), 2, Welling (9-2) 3, Hold You Rents, 63 -1 ran 1, 141, G Balding, Tate 54 30: 71 80, 53, 10 DF 617 70 CSF 536 13, 16 fat 7 ran 1, 141, G Balding, Tote 54 30: 71 80, 53, 10 DF 617 50 20 CSF 618 61
4.20 (2m 61 rde) 1, 1/46effig (1 Jenés, 9-4 law) C1 80, C3.10 DE C10 20 CSF C18 61
4.20 (2m of hode) 1. L'ident (7 Jevis, 9-4 levi
2. Hasten Bak (9-2); 3. Border Trader (6-1); 13
ran 171, 131 T George Tote C3.50 C1 70,
C1 90, C3.20 DE C3.00 CSF C11 59
4.55 (2m St 110 yd cn) 1. Ticket Te The Moon
(Mr A Ferrant, 3-1); 2. Pyron Mara, ic-1); 3. Rasta Man (11-2); Machimig Mara, ic-1); 3. BioC3.10 C2.10. DF C10 B0 CSF C2 41
5.30 (2m 11 hode) 1. Optimistic Thinker (1
Jenus 10-1); 2. M Perfecta (3-1); 3. BioCse (20-1); Charie Charg (6m) ceras tav 7 ran
41 2*4 T George Tote C16 90; C3.00 C2 30
DF C11 00 CSF C38 63
Placepot: 256.90.

Classippot: 256.90. Placepot: £95.90. Quadpot: \$20.70.

FOR FIRST TIME TELEPHONE CALLERS staking E25 or more today using SWITCH, SOLO or DELTA bank or building society debit cards. RING NOW-BET NOW 0800 44 40 40 (Minham tyle! Investment per call £16.0ver 18's orby) *Free bet is a £25 Correct Score bet on tonight? Valerenga v Chelsea match. (Please place your bet and make your free bet selection within the same call.)

'LIVE' CUP WINNERS CUP ACTION 10/3 VALERENGA 11/5 DRAW CHELSEA 8/11 CORRECT SCORE HALF TIME / FULL TIME FIRST GOALSCORER VALERENGA TO BE CHELSEA VALERENGA VALERENGA 7/1 8/1....1-0. VALERENGA DRAW 14/1 ...ZOLA (C) 16/1.....2-013/2 VALERENGA CHELSEA 25/1 14/1......2-17/1 15/2..... _Carew (V) DRAW.....VALERENGA 9/1 ...KAASA (V) ...SIMPSON (V) 50/1.....11/1DRAW DRAW... 4/1 50/1.....3-112/1 9/1. DRAW.....CHELSEA 4/1 _DI MATTEO (C) **50/1.....**3-2.....**33/1** 16/1 PETRESCU (C) CHELSEAVALERENGA 40/1 11/211/2 16/1......WSE (C) 11/2......NO GOALSCORER CHELSEA DRAW 14/1 CHELSEACHELSEA 13/8 18/1.....2-2.... Other scores on req uest. | Bets void if match not completed | Ov + ALL ABOVE BETS - EXTRA TIME DOES NOT COUNT. * TELEBETTING OPEN FROM 8,30am TODAY

Dorans Pride can prove Ireland's real gem

Florida Pearl and Teeton Mill may find themselves upstaged in the Gold Cup today, Alan Lee believes

point of Cheltenham week but. in recent years, not always the highlight. Today, though, 50.000 people inside Prestbury Park may be privileged to witness the greatest Gold Cup of the decade. The ingredients are all in place - nation against nation, potential against experience, speed against stamina. When the talking stops, prepare to acclaim

an estimable new champion. Two horses have dominated the build-up. Talk to anyone Irish about Florida Pearl and

IT HAS always been the focal an awed reverence descends. They dare to whisper his name in the same breath as Arkle and can offer no more profound compliment. Yet as many folk on this side of the Irish Sea will not hear of defeat for the formidable grey.

> To labour the credentials of those who vie for favouritism. though, is to miss the point. This is not a two-horse race and it does not merely concern the burgeoning careers of trainers Willie Mullins and Venetia Williams.



CHELTENHAM FESTIVAL

Indeed, five of the field will start at 10-1 or lower and those at bigger prices will include such plausible contenders as See More Business, Unsinka-Boxer and Suny Bay. man for the Tote, said yesterday that this is "the most eagerly awaited race in years" he was speaking for us all.

In the balmy sunshine of Cheltenham, Norman Williamson, the jockey of Teeton Mill, surveyed the prospect and beamed, not just for his own chances of a second Gold Cup but with a professional's pleasure in quality. "In the past few years, most people could pick out the first two or three in the Gold Cup but this year there are a lot with chances."

Last week, the intrigue over Williamson's choice of mount obscured the anticipation, muddled the waters. But he can see clearly now and he is mightily relieved to be partnering the pride of Herefordshire. "I think of Teeton Mill as a champion already." he said. "He annihilated the opposition in the King George and he has done everything right They say Florida Pearl could be the next Arkie. We'll see."

A growing lobby questions Tecton Mill's ability to last up the Cheltenham hill. True, he won the Hennessy Cognac Gold Cup in soft ground but so too, say the doubters, did One Man, for whom the Gold Cup remained a climb too far. Williamson says he has no doubts. "I think he will definitely stay." he said firmly. Richard Dunwoody is not so sure. "I have a slight doubt about Tecton Mill getting the trip," he said. Coming from the rider of Florida Pearl, this THE EXPERTS' VIEW

ALAN LEE 1. DORANS PRIDE 2. Teeton Mill

3. Sunv Bay CHRIS McGRATH

1_ FLORIDA PEARL 2. Dorans Pride 3. Senor El Betrutti.

psychological but Dun-woody's faith in his own mount, who will start favourite, is infectious. Various different scenarios

nag suggestively. Can Dorans Pride benefit from a more measured preparation and improve on his third places in the

ROB WRIGHT 1. SEE MORE BUSINESS

Florida Pearl 3. Simply Dashing

3. Sendr El Betrutti

1. FLORIDA PEARL 2. Sunv Bay

may either be significant or

past two Gold Cups? He will lack nothing for stamina, as witnessed by his surge up the hill last year after a blunder at the second last fence had cost

Can Suny Bay put one disap-pointment behind him and reproduce the form that puts him on a par with the very

best of stayers? Can Martin Pipe produce another minor miracle with a novice to win the chasing championship or. more likely, can Paul Nicholls continue his fabulous Festival with a victory for either Double Thriller or See More Business? Nicholls says he cannot choose between them.

A mouthwatering spectacle is in store. Tecton Mill could begin to succeed Desert Orchid in public affection as the first grey to win for ten years. Victory for Florida Pearl will ensure celebrity status for himself and all who sail with him.

But maybe this will be the year for Michael Hourigan and Dorans Pride to prove that horses can be champions even when the fashion and hyperbole has moved elsewhere.





However, he is speedy and there remains a doubt about his stamine.

Owner: P Green 8 wins from 25 starts, prize-money £79,874
This novice has not looked a natural over fences and would be a much bigger

......A P McCoy 142

To Part of the lipara, Di Donation (

Data San

To Extention

UNSINKABLE BOXER 26 (D.G.S) M Pipe 10-12-0 ___

BETTINS: Const. 11-4 Florida Pearl, Teaton Mill, 6-1 Double Thriller, 7-1 Doraris Pride, 15-2 Escartafigue, 10-1 Unsinkable Boxer, 14-1 See More Business, 20-1 Surry Bay, 25-1 Simply Deshing, 50-1 Imperial Call, Senor El Betrutti, 66-1 Addington Boy, Go Ballistic.

FLORIDA PEARL, trained to the minute by Willie Mullins, can fulfil all hopes and expecta-

tions by landing the Chelten-ham Gold Cup (3.15) today. A winner at the meeting the past

two years, his high cruising speed should allow Richard Dunwoody to lie handy before

pouncing on the run up the hill. Elsewhere on the card, confi-dence in Knife Edge (2.00) and

5.05 CATHCART CHALLENGE CUP CHASE (Grade II: £32,700: 2m 5f) (13 runners)

Le Coudray (2.35) is high.

Ladbrokes: 1:4 Florida Pearl, 3:1 Tecton Mill, 6:1 Dorans Pride, Double Thriller, 8:1 Escartefigue, 10:1 Surry Bay, 14:1 See More Business, Unsinkable Boxer, 28:1 Stroply Dashing, 50:1 Imperial Call, 68:1 Addington Boy, Go Ballistic, Senor El Betrutti. Tota: 2:1 Florida Pearl, 3:1 Tecton Mill, 7:1 Dorans Pride, 8:1 Double Thriller, 9:1 Escartefigue, 14:1 See More Business, 16:1 Simply Dashing, Surry Bay, Unsinkable Boxer, 50:1 Addington Boy, Imperial Call, 66:1 Go Ballistic, Senor El Betrutti. William Hill: 5-2 Florida Pearl, 3-1 Tecton Mill, 6-1 Double Thriller, 7-1 Dorans Pride, Escartefigue, 14-1 See More Business, Suny Bay, Unsankable Boxer, 20-1 Simply Dashing, 66-1 Addington Boy, Imperial Call, Senor El Betrutti, 100-1 Go Ballistic. 1998: COOL DAWN 10-12-0 A Thornton (25-1) R Ainer 17 ran CHELTENHAM Florida Pearl has golden qualities 3.55 CHRISTIE'S FOXHUNTER CHASE CHALLENGE CUP 100

Our Irish Correspondent: 2.00 Knife Edge. 2.35 Le Coudray. 3.15 Florida Pearl. 3.55 Irish Stout. 4.30 Space Trucker. Carl Evans: 3.55 Coole Abbey. GOING: GOOD TO SOFT TOTE JACKPOT MEETING 2.00 ELITE RACING CLUB TRIUMPH HURDLE C4 (Grade I: 4-Y-0: £45,960: 2m 1f) (23 runners) 31 AFARAD 81 (S) (J. McMauss) C Roche (RE) 11-0 ______ C F Swan (clinerald green and drange budged, white cap) 1 BALLA SOLA 35 (S) (Top Cal Symbolate) W P Malfins (RE) 11-0 ____ R Watch (Rach and white character, red cap) | 103 | RFR3041 BALLYSICYOS 23 (S) (Mr. P. A Dead) M Fige 11-0 _______ A P McCoy 59 | | 104 | 1251365 CHARLIES GOLD 19 (D.S.S) (Clessic Gold) A Balley 11-0 ______ D Salingher 111 lark prées and settor (Cohecil. Sierres révouse), dark green and yellon quartered cap) 1U2 SCARQET PUMPERMEL 19 (S) (R Hambro) N Truston-Davies 11-0 _C Llewebyn 124 (Pink, dark bion seans, pink cap) 1F211 SNAPLY BFTED 19 (C.S) (5 Harmond) (Exzethy 11-0 L. Wyer 126 (Red. white sech. emerald green sleeves, white armiets, emerald green cap) Royal blue, white braces, checked sleeves, royal blue cap, what start BETTING: 11-4 Katarino, 6-1 Clasgenus Presedent, Kolfe Edge, Skopily Gilledt, 10-1 Alarad, Batta Sota, 16-1 Frazen Groom, 20-1 Bahrsaryos, Scarlet Printpartiel, 25-1 Micss Orighian, 33-1 others. 2 1998: UPGRADE 11-0 C Lievellyn (14-1) N Twiston-Davies 25can. Shoqun, 5.15 Famous. ?

3.55 Celtic Abbey

5.40 Amitoe

4.30 Space Trucker

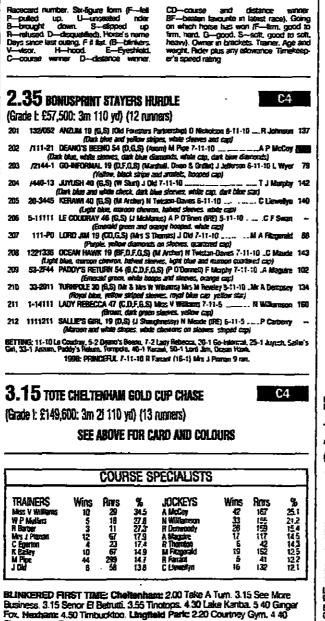
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2.00 Afarad

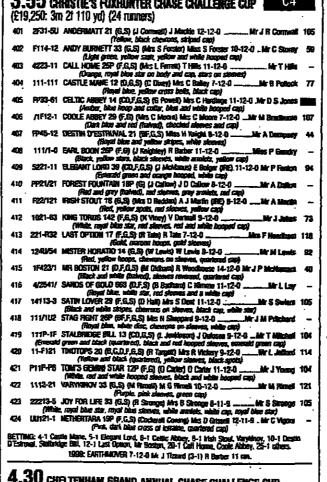
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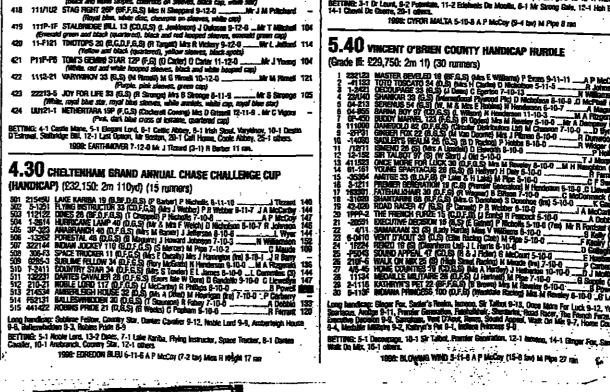
3.15 See More Business

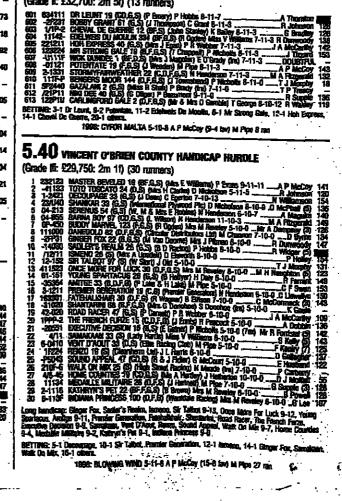
Timekeeper's top rating: 2.00 KATARINO.

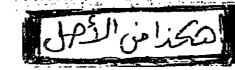


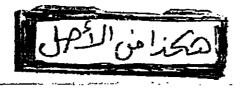
101 113143 GOOD TRAES 13 (BF,F,G,S) (Mrs D Robinson) B Hall 12-0 B West (7) 88











Call Equiname shows his class



FESTIVAL

BY ALAN LEE RACING CORRESPONDENT

THEY said it was a weak race, a pale imitation of the epic two-mile championships won by Viking Flagship, Martha's Son and One Man.

But that was before Call Equiname, a horse with legs like china, offered a further tribute to the training skills of Paul Nicholls and enriched once more the memory bank of Cheltenham's most spectac-

Until Tuesday, Nicholls remained a Festival maiden.

Today's other racecards and yesterday's results, page 51

Now, he has two winners and live prospects of a third in the Tote Gold Cup today. The prize-money earned here even makes it possible that one Somerset yard might depose another in the trainers' championship, for Nicholls is remorselessly on

Whatever else may surprise him about this week of fulfilment, the victory of the grey he calls "Ecky" in the Oueen Mother Champion Chase was no more than Nicholls expected. From the seething grandstands, it was a desperately close thing as Call Equiname Mick Fitzgerald.



Edredon Blen jumps the last ahead of the eventual winner, Call Equiname, and third, Direct Route, in the Queen Mother Champion Chase

overhauled the valiant frontrunner Edredon Bleu after the last fence and held on to win by a length and a quarter. Yet to the winning connections, it

had all gone perfectly to plan. "I thought this was my nap of the week. He's won all five of his chases and five out of seven over hurdles, so he is quite useful," Nicholls said blithely. "He also has to be held up to the last possible minute."

It was the need for such tactics that convinced Nicholls he should overlook his stable jockey. Joe Tizzard, and give the ride on Call Equiname to

That Fitzgerald is also his brother-in-law was hardly the point. "I knew Mick's style would suit the horse," Nicholls said. "I feel sorry for Joe, but his time will come."

Tizzard retained an involvement, giving the previously quirky Green Green Desert a fine ride for fourth place. But with Hill Society failing to justify Irish confidence, it was clear from half-a-mile out that the finish would concern the leading three in the betting.

Direct Route, whose preparations had been delayed by the floods surrounding Howard Johnson's stables in

Crook, loomed dangerously but faded as the relentless gallop of Edredon Bleu, the 3-1 favourite, saw off every challenger bar one. At his shoulder, waiting, waiting, sat Fitzgerald and Call Equiname.

stood in his stable and Call Equiname has spent too much of his nine years idle. He suffered sore shins over hurdles. then broke down and needed pinfiring after winning his second race over fences. Nursed back, he won first time out last season, only to return injured

A horse cannot achieve fame

operation to implant tendons." Nicholls explains. "It seems to have done the trick." As Fitzgerald pressed the button and Call Equiname — part-owned by Nicholls's great mentor and patron, Paul Barber wore down his rival, the merits of equine surgery can never have been better advertised.

Through his own frailty and misfortune. his restriction to four races spread over three seasons, Call Equiname has been deprived of the respect he deserves. All that may now change. So long as he is sound when Nicholls takes a deep breath and enters his box this

miles at Aintree next month. Fitzgerald will not give up the ride without a family argument, and he knows how to argue. He says he talked Nicholls into giving him the mount and, after the race, he spent several minutes deep in conversation with the Queen Mother.

morning, he will run over 21/2

Doubtless, he was filling her with confidence for his next ride, on her own Easter Ross, but in this instance his mood was misplaced. To the distress of a crowd seeking a royal triumph, Easter Ross fell

Afternoon that served a roller coaster ride

t is a standard rule of broadcasting: television does not capture atmosphere. It captures captures action pretty well. But it does not capture atmosphere and the more presenters go on about this fantastic atmosphere, the more we at

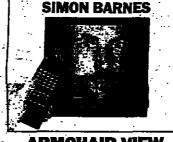
home are untouched by it. We are touched by drama, by incident, by brilliance, by triumph and disaster: but television lets atmosphere go. The fantastic atmosphere of the Last Night of the Proms is just funny hats; the fantastic atmosphere of the Cup Final is just people singing, the fantastic atmosphere of the Cheltenham Festival is just presenters laying it on with a trowel.

And then a change in mood so complete that even television picked it up. Norman Williamson asked for a mighty jump from Nick Dundee. the favourite and for many the banker bet of the meeting. The horse seemed ready to jump straight past his rival and sail home.

But the horse hammered into the fence and took an horrific tumble. Amid the gasp we saw Williamson personality to perfection, and it jump to his feet and catch the horse as he began to run off, preventing him for doing himself any further damage: a splendid and instinctive piece of horsemanship. The name of the rival, who numbed deanly and went on to win the Royal & SunAlfi-ance Chase by a distance was Looks Like Trouble, Any horse, bought or bred for any reason, might be given the same name - certainly all the animals I have ever owned.

The horse went in to receive not Chehenham cheers but genteel ap-plause laid over shocked silence. It was a shock, not just of losing money, but of seeing another horse looking so marvellous — "So alive", as Brough Scott said with masterly mot justery - looking so near to death a second later.

Nick Dundee was taken away in a horse ambulance, which was at least better than the dreadful sight of the



ARMCHAIR VIEW

green screens. And Looks Like Trou-ble went to collect his prize in an atmosphere more of funeral than of fes-

They didn't try to soft soap us, the Channel 4 people, and that is something I have always admired in their coverage. It was a day when the person most misty-eved about horses me for example - could only have come to the conclusion that every horse looks like trouble. A number of The Queen Mother had done all her stuff when presenting the tro-

phies to winning connections after the Queen Mother Champion Chase, and it was coyly-pointed out that her own mind might have been more on the following race in which she had a runner, Easter Ross.

t would have been a splendid thing had the horse won, and we would all have been writing God Bless You Ma'am pieces. and photographs of the winning and beaming owner would have been in all the papers. But the horse fell at the second hurdle, and - well, presumably Her Majesty is aware that any horse, no matter how brilliant, looks like trouble.

And after the second race and the usual ioyous scenes. Scott had to tell us that a runner in the first. Glazeway, had "shattered" a leg and had been put down. The Cheltenham Fes-

tival is an intoxicating occasion that has more than its fair share of sobering facts.

But perhaps the fleeting image that got to me most concerned a horse called Or Royal in the Queen Mother Chase. The horse simply refused to race. You lot can go if you like. I'm staying here. It was funny all right, but I didn't laugh at all. I've been in a very similar situation myself, fortunately with slightly fewer neonle watching.

Horses can put you through the mill, emotionally: that is what this Festival is all about. The dismay of the falling Nick Dundee, the disappointment of the Queen Mother's horse, the death of Glazeaway: these are all as much a part of the Festival as the intoxication, the victories, the

But Or Royal tells you the rock-bottom truth about all borses. Horses are wonderful - but by God, they can make you look a bloody fool.

fantastic atmosphere.

Space Trucker to pick up the winning thread

2.00: Not a great race for favour-ites, which is one of the few reasons to oppose Katarino. He reasons to oppose Katarino. He sprinted clear of Scarlet Pimpernel at Kempton last time, but might prefer softer ground and preference is for AFARAD. Useful on the Flat, he looked an exciting hurdling prospect when winning at Leopardstown. Knife Edge is another who is not sure to appreciate the drain. not sure to appreciate the drying ground, while Dangerus Prece-dent has plenty of experience and will make a bold bid from the front. Simply Gifted won an uncompetitive race at Haydock and will find this much tougher.

2.35: Le Coudray has been shin-ing in gallops with his stable companion, Istabraq, and as a result is a hot favourite. If he stays, he will probably win, but this is half-a-mile further than he has tackled before, and with the front-running Deano's Beeno in the line-up, it will be a thorough test. Deano's Beeno's only defeat in his past five starts came when beaten half-a-length by Princeful in the Long Walk Hurdle at Ascot, and he will be a tough nut to crack. Lady Reberca's record at Cheltenham this season stands at four wins from season stands at four wins from four starts, so the course holds no fears for her, but this longer distance might. ANZUM, runner-up in this race two years ago, missed last season through injury but showed clear signs of artistic to form when a page. a return to form when runner-up to Pharanear at Kempton last time. He will be one of the first to come under pressure, but stays forever and will relish this test.

3.15: Florida Pearl and Teeton Mill have grabbed the headlines in the run-up to this race, and as a result the betting has a lop-sided look. The latter won the King George in style, but there are real doubts about him staying up the final hill. Florida Pearl won the Bumper here two years ago, and the Royal and SunAlli-ance Chase last season. However, in the latter he looked like winning in style but found less than expected off the bridle and may, too, not appreciate the extra 1½ furlongs here. Dorans Pride has finished third in the past two renewals, but has had a lighter campaign this time and cannot be ruled out. Paul Nicholis runs both Double Thriller and SEE MORE BUSINESS. Double Thriller has the higher profile having beaten Teeton Mill in a hunter chase here last April, but See More Business makes more appeal at 14-1. Winner of the King George last sea-son, he has been below par on his last two runs but is said to be working with his old zest now and can spring a surprise. Sim-ply Dashing always gives his running here and has place claims, along with Senor El Be-trutti, who was fourth last year.

3.55: COOLE ABBEY has the class to win. but inexperienced Castle Mane is a big danger (Carl Evans writes). If it rains and the ground softens. Coole Abbey's speed would be blunted; that would suit Castle Mane, a horse of great potential. Varyki-nov and Destin D'Estruval should be in contention while Last Option will improve on faster ground.

4.30: This stiff two miles should be ideal for Hurricane Lamp.



TODAY'S RACES but his tendency to make mistakes may prove his undoing. Anabranch was returning from a break when caught close home by Mulligan at Doncaster on his

penultimate start, and was not disgraced behind Edredon Bleu at Sandown last time. He should again make the frame, but SPACE TRUCKER will be hard to beat if putting in a clear round. Third in the Champion Hurdle two years ago, he is well handicapped here.

5.05: Dr Leaut will be favourite Subst Dr Leunt will be tayourrite to complete a four-timer here. He was too strong for The Land Agent in the Racing Post Chase over three miles at Kempton last time, where MR STRONG GALE finished fourth. However, Mr Strong Gale failed to stay there, and holds Dr Leunt on earlier form over this course and earlier form over this course and distance in December, when the pair finished third and fourth respectively in the Tripleprint Gold Cup. Edelweis Du Mou-lin, having his first run for Vene-tia Williams, has to be respected.

5.40: The presence of Master Beveled at the top of the weights has kept all but eight of these out of the handicap, and made the race a little less competitive than usual. Decoupage's connections will feel that they were right to bypass the Champion Hurdle after Istabraq's peerless display, and the Tote Gold Trophy winner has solid claims. However, he may struggle to confirm the form with the fourth there, AMITGE, on 9lb worse terms. Fifth in the Triumph Hurdle last year, she makes plenty of appeal at 25-1 with Charlie Swan on board. Barna Boy, who loves Cheltenham, won this race two years ago and finished fourth last season. He should be thereabouts. Sir Talbot will be suited by the drying conditions while Premier Generation, a useful performer on the Flat, is poten-tially well treated, as is Samakaan, who has won both his starts for Venetia Williams, winning in good style at Wetherby and Haydock. He could be much better than he has shown. **ROB WRIGHT**



www.chetenbam.co.uk -- dedicated si TELEVISION: The Alternoon Line (C4, 1 00pm): The Cheltenham Festival (C4, 1.30pm); Gold Cup Day at Chellenham (C4. 8 00pm)

THE TIMES CHELTENHAM 09064 700547 — Racecall commentary 09064 700548 — Racecall results

*calls cost 60p per minute





14/1 Unsinkable Boxe 5/2 Florida Pearl 20/1 Simply Dashing B//1 Teeton Mill 66/1 Addington Boy 6/1 Double Thrilier 66/1 Imperial Call Dorans Pride 66/1 Senor El Betrutti 7/1 Escartefigue

14/1 See More Business 100/1 Go Ballistic 14/4 Suny Bay Each way One Quarter the odds a place 1,2,3, Prices subject to fluctuation.

suitable up to First Show. Testersalis Rule 4(c) may apply, Non runner – no bet *FREE £25 BET

FOR FIRST THATE TELEPHONE CALLERS staking £25 or more today ising SWITCH, SOLO or DELTA bank or building society debit cards. RING NOW BET NOW TELEBETTING OPEN FROM 8.30am TODAY LATRICT WELLIAM WILL GOOD ON THE TEXT CITY PROVI

just made the frame).

Chance intervenes as Nick Dundee falls

BY CHRIS MCGRATH

THOUGH it was not quite what the Irish had in mind when pinning shamrock to their lapels in the morning, they nonetheless acknowledged an authentic St Patrick's Day miracle at Cheltenham yesterday. For Nick Dundee, hot favourite to honour the occasion in the Royal & SunAlliance Chase, had appeared to iose far more than a developing duel with Looks Like Trouble when crashing into

the third-last fence. When he got to his feet, only three were functional. His lefthind leg dangled uselessly. Screens were crected to spare the packed grandstand too grisly a final memory of a novice so talented that he had nearly been switched to the Tote Cheltenham Gold Cup. Yet before long he could put enough weight back on his leg to walk into the equine ambulance. "He went straight throught the middle of the fence," Norman Williamson, his jockey, said. "I thought his

leg was broken."

Veterinary examination suggests that Nick Dundee has chipped a cannon-bone or sesamoid. The guestion of whether he can race again will be unravelled with the bandages which heavily strapped his injury last night. Sharing a measure of his discomfort was the punter who struck a bet of £110,000 to £80,000, confirming this to be the fiercest of Festivals in the ring. The previous day Freddie Williams, who who laid that bet, had accommodated £100,000 each-way at 7-1 about Shannon Gale (who

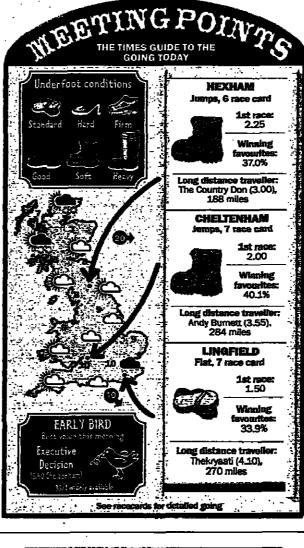
The stakes are higher on the course, however. Nick Dundee's misfortune was cruel vindication of his owner's deci-

sion to miss the Gold Cup. Nick Dundee was certainly going best and Looks Like Trouble — left a distance clear - looked lucky. But his trainer, Noel Chance, has become accustomed to wading against the tide since Mr Mulligan won the Gold Cup here just two years ago. "I know Nick Dundee was still on the bridle and maybe he would have found extra, but he has only ever been on the bridle and I know our horse would have found more," Chance said. "I shall now train him for next year's Gold Cup." Chance is, of course, an ex-

iled Irishman himself, while all seven races yesterday fell to Irish-born jockeys. St Patrick was most thoroughly honoured in the Coral Cup, where the first six home were trained in Ireland. Three of them shared a photo, headed by last year's runner-up. Khay-

It was also a desperately close thing for Deejaydee, the card's other Irish winner in the National Hunt Chase. Tony Martin got him back up on the line for Michael Hourigan to be suitably emboldened over the Gold Cup prospects of Dorans Pride. But there was disappointment for the Florida Pearl stable, with Alexander Banquet finishing a tame seventh behind the impressive Barton in the Royal & SunAlliance Novices' Hurdle. It was touching to see many of Lorcan Wyer's northern colleagues in the winner's enclosure to hail his first Festival success since his amateur days 13 years ago. Dreams of next year's Smurfit Champion Hurdle - Ladbrokes offers 10-1 — will help keep Wyer, 34,

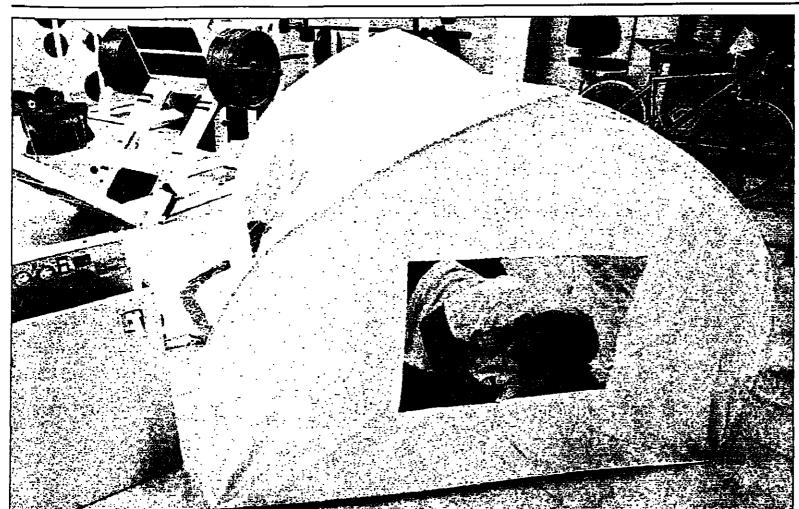
showing up for work.



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Sleeping partner: Wallace's tent simulates altitude, using the latest high-tech gadgetry in an attempt to improve performances on the track

Tent to take breath away

could be for you. The idea is that you get fitter and boost your endurance simply by lying in bed. It's the latest high-tech gadget to come out of sports science and it promises to turn your bedroom at home into a mountain top.

It was dreamt up by a British cyclist and engineer, Shaun Wallace, who lives and trains in the United

Lt can

simulate

altitudes

up to

9,000ft **?**

Choose a film for the

way you feel tonight.

Flubber

Amistad

The Butcher Boy

Boogle Nights

Romeo & Juliet

Mortal Kombat: Annihilation

States. He was a Great Britain Olympic team member in Los Angeles in 1984 and Atlanta in 1996 and twice broke the world record (amateur and professional) for the flying kilometre.

Since he left Nottingham University with a degree in

engineering in 1983. Wallace sults you have to "live high" has been a top competitor in but "train low". Two years cycling — a tough endurance ago, scientists took a group of sport in which many riders 39 competitive runners and have been notorious for abusing the rules and their bodies by the illegal use of blood-doping and drugs — particularly EPO.

The aim of many of these outlawed procedures is to mimic the natural benefits that sportsmen get from living or training at altitude. Many sports, including cycling, swimming and running, are highly dependent on the body's ability to take in and move to places such as Colora-

f you dream of the ulti-mate in lazy ways to get and keep fit, then this sport for years. in some events, such as

long-distance running, athletes from high-altitude countries such as Kenya and Ethiopia have dominated relentlessly. Time spent at altitude causes several adaptations to take place in the body, but probably the most significant is an increase in red blood-cell count. This knowledge sent athletes racing for the hills, but not

only is altitude training expensive and inconvenient, but once you are halfway up a mountain it is impossible to train as hard and fast as you can at sea level. The latest research shows that

to get the best re-

split them into three groups. Thirteen lived and trained at sea level, thirteen lived and trained at 2,500 metres and thirteen lived at 2,500 metres but travelled down to 1.250 metres to train. The last group vastly outperformed the other two groups over a 5.000 metres run, with improvements of 40 seconds in 17 minutes.

Such research has led to a vogue among elite athletes to



do Springs, where they can effectively commute up and down the mountains. The same theory lay behind the invention by Professor Igor Gamow of the Gamow Hypobaric Chamber, a claustropho-

bic coffin-like box that could provide athletes or moutaineers with the reduced air pressure experienced at altitude. Another method of simulating altitude is to use cylinders of nitrogen to reduce the per-

centage of oxygen in the air. This procedure has been tried by Scandinavian Nordic ski-



Wallace: riding high

ers, who lived in quarters specially converted by the researcher, Heikki Rusko, to contain only 15.3 per cent of oxygen (compared with a normal 20.9 per cent.)

After four weeks of the nitroen treatment, the skiers' red blood-cell count rose by 7 per cent and their performances improved accordingly. Wallace, in his attempts to

go ever faster on his bike, has tried it all. "I've used altitude training as part of my preparation for years," he said. "I You can was always trying something new. sleep two For two years I

in it at

the same

time?

used a hypobaric chamber, which I took to the Olympics in Atlanta. These things work well, but they re very hard to . move around. So I

started working with experts to devise an alternative - a portable tent that can be erected in minutes over any bed, at home, in a hotel, even at the Olympics. This time, rather than simu-

late altitude by reducing the pressure of the air, we have reduced the percentage of oxy-gen within it. This triggers the body to adapt and you literally increase your oxygen-carrying potential while you sleep. The tent, which folds to the

size of a suitcase and weighs fewer than 70lb, utilizes hotair balloon technology. It can fit a double or queen-size bed

EQUESTRIANISM

and once you have zipped yourself inside, you can still look out on the world through three large vinyl windows.

It is already proving popular among altitude-obsessed athletes. The British Cycling Federation has one and it has been tried by Britain's leading mountain-bike rider. Caroline Alexander.

Others who have been spending their nights in the magic tent include Paula New by-Fraser, eight times the Hawaii

Ironman world champion; New Zealand cycle champion, Lee Vertongen; and the world champion tri-athlete, Michellie Jones. The tent can sim-

ulate any altitude up to 9,000 feet and Wallace reckons that for best results you should spend six to eight hours a night in it for ten

the tent at the same time - as long as the bedroom is cool. Whether the altitude tent really works is a matter of debate and needs some serious independent research. What might keep you awake at night is the price — it sells for \$5,395 (about £3,375). But there are al-

weeks before competition.

And, yes, you can sleep two in

ways plenty of athletes who will pay any price to get to the top of the mountain.

JOHN BRYANT

Designs on a sporting life

TELEVISION CHOICE

Making It BBC2, 7.30pm (not Scotland)

This engaging new series focuses on young designers, starting with two transport design graduates, Dean Carbis and Toby Birkenhead, fresh out of Coventry University. They have won a transfer and graduate and gradu three-month attachment to update and rethink sports shoes for Reebok in Boston, which has been sports shoes for Reebok in Boston, which has been struggling against growing opposition from adidas and Nike. Dean's brief is to redesign the laced (and potentially dangerous) shoes used in motor racing, Toby is to tackle football boots for the New England Revolution team. From the moment they settle into their leafy, luxurious surroundings we follow their progress on the drawing board, and their interviews with footballers and drivers, about what they went through to the final launch of their prototypes. through to the final launch of their prototypes.

Top Gear BBC2, 8.30pm

The series returns in some style as the presenter Tilf Needell, driving a mightily powerful McLaren-Fl, sets a new British speed record. The car is clearly not for wimps: it is powered by a 6.1 litre BMW VI2 engine. Needell's target is the 180.4mph record set by Colin Goodwin in a Jaguar XIZ20S in 1995, on the two-banked bowl of Millbrook. Proving Ground in Bedfordshire. And no. he. doesn't make it first time — but he does eventuall hitting a top speed of more than 200mph. Also on the show: a new face (but familiar to viewers of Channel 4 and Channel 5) in James May, test driving the Rover 75 en route to Seville. Can this first all-new Rover car for 23 years turn its company's fortunes around?

TV, 9pm

Performance on 3

Radio 3, 7.30pm

A three-part drama, based on the bestselling novel by Rosie Thomas. The "secret" shared by Jess (Siobhan Redmond) and Rob (Paul Bettany) is a love that dare not speak its name ... they are separated in age by nearly a quarter of a century

The mezzo-soprano Sally Burgess is part of an impressive list of soloists in a performance of Verdi's Requiem, recorded last July at Symphony

Hall in Birmingham, a venue increas-ingly visited by the microphones of Radio 3. Verdi's Mass is

among the most-performed works on the classica

manifest and the reasons for its enduring appeal are evident from the opening bars: this is a musical triumph and its ability to move the listener transcends religious boundaries and takes all who

hear it into a sublime experience. For this performance Sir Edward Downes conducts the BBC National Orchestra and Chorus of Wales, augmented by the Mendelssohn Choir from Pittsburgh.



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Siobhan Redmond (centre) stars in Every Woman Knows a Secret (ITV, 9pm)

and he was at the wheel of the car that plunged over an embankment, killing Jess's son. She, being divorced, had brought up the 20 year-old Danny on her own and refuses point blank to believe what the police are saying about his alleged assault and rape before the accident. So how, you might wonder, can this grief-stricken mother get it together with her son's "murderer"?

Horizon: New Asteroid Danger BBC2_9.30pm

is there any truth in the notion — forget what Hollywood has shown us in films such as Deep impact and Armageddon — that a doomsday asteroid could smash into the Earth and put paid to civilisation as we know it? It may have happened to the dinosaurs but, say scientists, it is unflikely that an asteroid of such size could appear again, at least in the foreseeable future. What about smaller chunks of rock from outer space? In Siberia, in 1908, one of these flattened 2,000 square kilometres of forest. And it is these smaller rocks which worry the scientists because they are the hardest to track. the scientists because they are the hardest to track This means we could lose a capital city such as Washington DC overnight with no warn

RADIO CHOICE

At the Beeb Radio 2, 9.30pm

I have been resisting this series because the material in it is drawn from the BBC archives and that seems like too easy a way to fill up half an-hour in the schedules. But I have been listening to it (when no one was around to notice) and because it (when no one was around to notice) and because the history of broadcast comedy is inentricably bound up with that of the BBC there has been some fascinating material. Tonight the featured performer is Rounie Barker, talking about "the best job in the world", which, he says, is getting paid to make people laugh. The programme is an entertaining reminder of the extent of Barker's comedy experience, from his beginnings with The Frost Report to The Two Rounies and Open All Hours.

BBC WORLD SERVICE

6.00am The World Today 7.00 World News 7.15 Outlook 7.55
My Cantury 8.00 World News 8.05 From Our Own
Correspondent 8.20 Off the Shelt: Enduring Love 8.35 The
Works 9.00 World News 9.05 Network 9.20 Andy Kershaw's
World of Music 9.50 Sports Round-Up 10.00 Newsdesk 10.30
Britain Today 10.45 Performance 11.00 Newsdesk 11.30
Assignment 12.00 World News 12.05pm Outlook 12.45
Sports Round-Up 1.00 Newshour 2.00 World News 2.05 The
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World 2.30 Meridian Books 3.00 World News 2.05 Sports
Round-Up 3.15 Westway 3.30 The Greenfield Collection 4.00
World News 4.15 Insight 4.30 The Music S tudio 4.45 The Lab
8.00 Europe Today 5.30 World Business Report 6.45 Sports
Round-Up 6.00 World News 7.05 The Works 7.30 From Our
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RADIO 1 (BBC)

6.30em Zoe Ball 9.00 Simon Meyo 12.00 Jo Whiley 2.00pm Mark Radoffle 4.00 Chris Moyfes 5.45 Newsbeat 6.00 Dave Pearce 8.00 Steve Larmacq: The Evening Session 10.00 Trade Update 10.10 John Peel, With a session by Tram 12.00 Andy Kershaw 2.00am Clive Warren 4.00 Scott Mils

RADIO 2 (BBC)

6.00am Alex Lester 7.30 Serah Kennedy 9.30 Ken Bruce 12.00 Jimmy Young 2.00pm Ed Stawert 5.05 Johnnie Walker 7.00 David Alian 8.00 Paul Jones 9.00 Purit and Dennis: It's Been a Bad Week (6/6) 9.30 At the Beeb; Ronnie Barker. See Cholos (2/4) 10.00 The Alan Price Set (2/6) 10.30 Richard Allinson 12.00 Katrins Leskenich 3.00em Mo Dutta

RADIO 5 LIVE (BBC)

5.00am Moming Reports 6.00 Breeklast 9.00 Nicky Campbell 12.00 The Midday News 1.00pm The Challenham Fesëval. Gold Cup action presented by John Inverdale and Clare Balding, with commentary and analysis at 3.15 of the big race at 4.00 Drive 7.00 News Extra 7.20 The Thursday Match: Valerenga v Chelsea in the Cup Winners' Cup 9.30 On the Line 10.00 Late Night Live 1.00em Up Alf Night with Rhod Sharp **TALK RADIO**

6.00em The Big Boys Breekdast 9.00 Scott Chisholm & Selly James 12.00 Justice With Jacobs 1.00pm Anna Raebum 4.00 The Sports Zone 7.00 Valerenga v Chelsea 10.30 James Whate 1.00em len Collins VIRGIN

6.30mm Chris Evens 9.30 Ruse Williams 1.00pm Nick Abbot 4.00 Harriet Scott 6.45 Pete and Geoff 10.00 Mark Forrest 1.00mm James Mentit 4.30 Richard Allen

CLASSIC FM

6.00em Nick Bailey's Easier Breakfast. A selection of rousing music to start the day 9.00 Michael Mappin. The Half of Fame Hour and CD of the Week 12.00 Lunchtime Requests. Jane Jones presents favourite music 2.00pm Concerto. Weber (Clarinet Concerto. No 1 in F minor) 3.00 Jarrie Cick. Continuous Classics and Altermoon Romance 6.30 Newsnight. The latest headines and sport updetes 7.00 Smooth Classics at Seven. John Brunning introduces classic sounds 9.00 Evening Concert. Debussy (Prelude a l'apres-midi d'un taune; Noctumes Nuages); Delibes (In a Summer Garden); Rebaud (La Procession Noctume); Iretand (London Pleces); Debussy (Images pour orchestre) 11.00 Mann at Night 2.00em Concerto (r) 3.00 Mark Griffiths. The Early Breakfast Show

Round-Up 3.30 World Business Report 3.45 Insight 4.00 The

6.00am On Air With Petroc Trelawny, Poulenc
(Aubade); Schumann (Kinderszenen); Walton
(Spitine Pretude and Fugue)

9.00 Meaterworks With Peter Hobday, Schubert
(Symphony No 5 in B flat); Debussy (Chansons de
Bitis); Rodrigo (Concierto pastoral)

10.30 Artist of the Week: Gilliam Weir

11.00 Sound Stories: Medical Matters Beethoven died
from cirrhosis of the liver

12.00 Composer of the Week: Strauss
1.00pm The Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert The
Munich-based Rosamunde Quartet make their
British concert debut. Webern (Langsamer Satz);
Mozart (String Quartet in F, K168); Shostakovich
(String Quartet No 8, Op 110)

2.00 The BBC Orchestras BBC Netional Orchestra of
Weles under fon Marin and Mark Wigglesworth,
Barny Douglas, plano. Toppett (The Rose Lake);
Rechmaninov (Plano Concerto No 3 in D minor);
Brahms (Symphony No 4 in E minor)

4.00 Ensemble Perny Gore calebrates the
extraordinary achievements of Haydn (r)

4.45 Music Machine with Tommy Pearson
5.00 In Turne Sean Rafferty explores the new
production of Botto's Mephistopheles as it opens
at English National Opera

7.30 Performance on 3 Edward Downes conducts

productor or both is Mephasophees as it opens at English National Opena 7.30 Performance on 3 Edward Downes conducts Verdi's intensely dramatic and powerful setting of the Mass for the Dead in a concert given last July at Symphony Hall, Birmingham, Nina Reutilo,

soprano, Sally Burgess, mezzo, Dennis O'Neill, lenor, John Tomilinson, bass, Mendelssohn Choir of Pitisburgh, BBC National Chorus and Orchestra of Wales under Edward Downes. See Choice 9.00 Postscript: The Pas de Deux (4/5) 8.20 Haydn and Bartok Boris Berman, plano. Bartok Str Dences in Bulgerian Rhythm; killarokosmos, Book 6); Haydn (Sonata in E flat, H XVI 52) (f) 10.00 Music Restored Lucle Skeaping introduces a programme of country delights, including a pastoral cantata by Hasse performed by Emmie Kridoy, soprano, and London Berroque 10.45 Nilght Warves With a new collection of essays published this week in Britain, Alberto Manguel lafes to Paul Allen about the nature of books and the place of literature in contemporary culture 11.30 Jazz Notes with Alyn Shipton 12.00 Composer of the Week: Delius (r) 1.00am Through the Nilght With Donald Macleod. 1.00 Sintonia Varsovia under Jan Keerz. Krenz (Classical Serenade): Brahms (Symphony No 4 in Eminor) 2.15 Constantin Regerney (Quintet. Miroslaw Pokrzywinski (clarinet), Grzegorz Golab (basson). New Warsaw Trio. 3.00 Schools: Music Workshop 3.20 Let's Movel 3.40 Words Alivei 3.55 First Steps in Drame 4.10 Listen and Write 4.35 Radio Showcase 4.40 Check it Out 5.00 Wolf (Italian Serenade) 5.15 Chopin (Scherzo No 2 in 8 flat minor, Op 31) 5.30 Schubert (Symphony No 5 in 8 flat)

was resigned to riding Niko. his second string. The Accused

The Rock Evita When Harry Met Sally

Die Hard 2: Die Harder My Fellow Americans

pius 50 more.

08702 42 42 42 Like Water For Chocolate skydigital TV as you want it.

Billington determined to make up for lost time A TIMELY telephone call has By JENNY MACARTHUR on Virtual Village Heyman.

bolstered Geoff Billington's chances of qualifying for the World Cup final when he competes in the Dutch qualifier at 's-Hertogenbosch this weekend. Having misread the World Cup rules, Billington thought he was not allowed to ride his top horse. It's Otto, this weekend - because he has now competed in three qualifiers in succession - and

"I was rung up on Monday by someone who knew the rules better than me and told that as there had been a twoweek break between the Bologna and Paris qualifiers it was all right to continue with Otto," Billington said yester-

Although lying eleventh in the European League — from which the top 19 qualify for the final in Sweden next month there are two more qualifiers to come and Billington needs points this weekend. His conpicuous failure to achieve any in Paris last weekend - where he incurred half a time fault in the opening round - has sharpened his resolve.

"I couldn't believe I had done that," Billington said. "It was only when I heard the crowd shouting 'Allez, allez' as I iumped the last fence that I realised I was slow. But we're going to put the job right on

Sunday.' Robert Smith and John and Michael Whitaker make up the British complement at the event. Di Lampard, with Abbervail Dream, has had to withdraw because her father is ill. The foreign entry is headed by Ludger Beerbaum, of wins the end-game.

Smith, who has only one top horse - Senator For The Best Germany, the European champion, who had a stylish win on Priamos last week in Paris. The Whitakers will not be under pressure this weekend. Fifth and sixth in the league,

they are virtually assured of their places at the final. Nevertheless, both aim to improve on their Paris results - where Michael had four faults on Ashley in the first round and John finished eighth - the best Briton - after a frustrating four faults in the jump-off

- at the show, may not even compete in the qualifier. His sights are set on the Grand Prix - also on Sunday - in which he has the chance to secure a £35,000 bonus. The event is part of a series

that offers a bonus for the winner of two out of the three grands prix of Amsterdam, 's-Hertogenbosch, and Rotterdam in August. Smith won Amsterdam on Senator For The Best last November.

WORD-WATCHING

CARBONARI

(b) The members of a secret political association formed in the kingdom of Naples during the French occupation under Murat, with the design of introducing a republican government. In Italian the word means colliers or charcoal-burners. "In 1799, when driven to the forest of the Abruzzi the republicans are believed to have disguised themselves as charcoal-burners. In the course of 20 years the name Carbonari was borne by a society, or confederate societies, ranging all over Italy." CITRUL

(b) The Water-Melon (Cucumis Citrullus). Also applied (both in

French and English) to the Pumpkin. The Old French name from

the 13th century. It comes from Latin citrus, so called from its col-our. Sam Johnson, in his Dictionary: "Citrul, the same with pum-

pion, so named from its yellow colour." CROMORNE (c) A reed-stop on an organ. Also called Krummhorn and Cremona. A corruption of the German for "crooked horn". "Krummhorn, Cromorne, Cremona, Clarionet, Corno-di-Bassetto. An Organ Reed Stop of 8 feet size of tone."

CASTOR (c) The beaver. From the ancient Greek, probably for a foreign word. The Sanskrit kasturi means musk. The sacs are cut off from the castors when they are killed."

SOLUTION TO THE WINNING MOVE Solution: 1 Be6+! Qxe6 (1 ... Kh8 2 Qxf8+! Qxf8 3 Rf7 is decisive) 2 Qxf8+ Kxf8 3 Rxc8+ Qe8 4 Rxe8+ Kxe8 5 Rxg7 and White easily

RADIO 4

5.30am World News 5.35 Shipping Porecast
5.40 Inshore Forecast 5.45 Prayer for the Day
5.47 Farming Today Bural news with Charlotte Smith
6.00 Today with John Humphrys and Sue MacGregor
8.35 (LW) Yesterday in Parliament Political update
9.00 Melvyn Brago in Our Time Quests join Melvyn
Brago to consider ideas and events which have
influenced the present age
9.30 C & A Jez Nelson investigates the effect of
neuroscience on perceptions of the human spirit
4.45 (FM) Serial: Letters From My Windmill (4/5)
9.45 (LW) Daily Service Director of music Alan Wilson
10.00 Woman's Hour Jenni Murray presents
11.00 Crossing Continents leabel Histor investigates
the alarming use in domestic volence and sexual
abuse in Nicarague, asking what has gone wrong
since the Sandinista revolution
11.30 My Uncle Freddie by Alex Ferguson. Cornedyset in Tyneside charting the relationship between
a youngster and his uncle. With Shaun
Prandegast and Gareth Brown (1/6) (7)
12.00 (FM) News Headlines; Shipping Forecast
1.00 The World at One with Nick Clarke
1.30 Open Country Richard Uridge presents from
Lincoinshire

Lincolnshire

Linconstite

2.00 The Archers Yesterday's edition (f)

2.15 Afternoon Play: East Coast Line (Southbound)

More travellers' tales from Lesley Glassier

3.00 Cell You and Yours 9870 010 0444 Consumer

Helder Wilden justice programme, presented by Peter White
3.28 Radio 4 Appeal Robin Day speaks on behelf of
the Epitepsy Research Foundation (r)
3.30 Carnivel Tales Mark Rickards investigates the

camivel in the Amazonian city of Belem 3.45 This Sceptred late Anna Massey narrates part 54 of the history of Britain (r)

4.00 Nice Work Alson Mitchell investigates the changing world of work
4.30 The Material World Trevor Philips asks whether scientists should be held personally responsible for their discoveries
5.00 PM with Chris Lowe and Nigel Wrench
6.00 Six O'Clock Newra
6.30 Dear John Tribute to the satirist John Wells, author of Private Eye's 'Dear Bill' letters (r)
7.00 The Archers Ruth Larns it up
7.15 Front Row The nightly arts programme
7.45 The Cry of the Bittern Parl 24 of Tim Jackson's environmental drama. Broadcast earlier as part of Woman's Hour (r)
8.00 What If? Professor Christopher Andrew and guests imagine alternative events that could have transpired had King Alfred been defeated by the Vikings at Edington in 878 (2/4)
8.30 The Week in Westminister Sieve Richards takes a look behind the political science
9.00 Leading Edge Geoff Watts reports on events at the cutting edge of science
9.30 Metryn Bragg: In Our Time Broadcast earlier (r)
10.05 Book at Bedtime: Straft is the Gate David McKail reads the story by André Gide (4/10)
11.00 Late Night en 4: The Way it is Satire and sketches with Simon Evens, Tracy-Ann Oberman and Dave Lamb
11.30 (FM) A Good Head Thomas Sutcliffe discusses

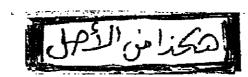
and Leve Lamb

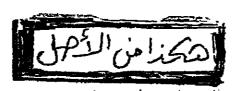
11.30 (FM) A Good Read Thomas Sutcliffe discusses
three lavourite paperbacks with guests Martin
Bashir and Neil Bartlett (r)

11.30 (LW) Today in Parliament Update from
Macminister

Westmingter
12.00 News 12.30em The Late Book: The Mask of
Command Part four of John Keegan's account of
the nature of leadership
12.48 Shipping Porecast 1.00 As World Service

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1. FM 97.6-98.8. RADIO 2. FM 86.0-90.2. RADIO 3. FM 90.2-92.4. RADIO 4. FM 92.4-94.6; LW 196; MW 720. RADIO 5 LIVE. MW 693, 909: WORLD SERVICE: MW 648; LW 196 (12.45-6.55am). CLASSIC FM. FM 100-102. VIRGIN RADIO. FM 105.8; MW 1197, 1215. TALK RADIO. MW 1053, 1089. Television and radio listings compiled by Perry Cleveland-Peck, ian Hughes, Gillian Maxey, Jane Gregory and





Us and them in the gardens of discontent

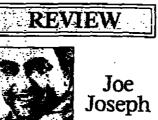
Tree - who orac construction too-queenly actress in an Egyptian drama: Remember you're in Egypt. The 'skay' is only seen in Kensington' — might have winced at the mischievous way Vivianne Howard in Diana's Neighbours (BBC2), portrayed every resident of Kensington as a rich, braying toll who can't open their mouth without a plum plopping out of it.

Did Howard decide to make this film about the proposed (and now shelved) £10 million Diana Memorial Garden in Kensington Gardens only after having found Mrs Ethne Rudd, secretary of the Kensington Society? Or was it just serendipity that, having planned to make the documentary anyway. she chanced upon a character who could serve as the perfect fulcrum for the telling of this see-saw tale? There's no getting around it: Mrs bathing, skating, playing softball, reading, snogging, talking, play-

Casting (here is Mrs Rudd inspect-ing flowers placed on Kensington Palace's railings on the anniversary of Diana's death: "A huge sunflower. How lovely! I wonder what thar's meant to signify: we can all grow tall if we try?. If you wanted to create one of those public service broadcasts to show the world that Britain is still an Us and Them society, then you would need to look no further than Howard's film.

By distorting and then exaggerating a stereotype, this documentary arouses the same emotions as a funny ethnic joke: you know you shouldn't laugh, but you can't help yourself. Howard's film is totally outrageous but hugely enjoyable. You have to peek at it through parted fingers. It's outrageous because Kensington Gardens are actually husy with bodies of every class, colour, race and religion; they're playing soccer, riding bicycles, suning guitars, sleeping, walking dogs, collecting conkers, playing with their children, or just getting some fresh air. But Howard, luckily, found none of these people.

nstead she found Mrs Rudd. And her triend Brian Sewell, the art critic, who has turned enunciating vowels into a cruel blood sport: "Kensington Gardens are part of my life. In my childbood, during the war, there were sheep grazing here. I learnt the facts of life in these gardens, because as one trundled around during the war, the place was full of soldiers and young women who were doing it here instead of shop doorways. Kensington Gardens means a great deal to me. It's an integral part of my life and I don't want some nincompoop appointed by the Chancellor - who is not a Londoner, but another bloody Scotsman throwing his weight about town here - changing it."



Remarkably, after hearing this diatribe, there wasn't a spontaneous, spiteful decision to turn Kensington Gardens into a giant amusement arcade with 24-hoursa-day bumper cars and hot-dog stalls every five yards: instead Gordon Brown and his Diana Memorial Committee agreed to abandon the 27-acre garden in favour of sprucing up the park's

already existing children's play-

ground. Actually, this was proba-bly the correct decision. A formal garden just in front of the palace gates would have made Kensington Gardens far stuffier than you might think it already is after seeing Diana's Neighbours, and the traffic is thick enough down Kensington High Street without coach parties adding to the chaos.

But in case these arguments still lacked enough punch, Sewell was on hand - like the bruiser who's just given someone a thrashing and is hovering threateningly with his baseball bat, just in case his victim has any thoughts of getting up off the floor — to seal the case for the prosecution. "It seems to me an appalling thought," he said, his nostrils flaring like a stallion's, "that the man who saw to the washing of the Princess's knickers should now dictate to the rest of the nation that the garden should be so abused." You assume the "man" he was referring to was Paul Burrell. Diana's butler - then still on the Memorial Committee. Unless Sewell meant Gordon Brown. You may snort, but you can't put anything past that Brian.

'll bet if Brian Sewell had been

overseeing the restoration work on Home House, a dilapidated 18th-century Robert Adam palace just behind Selfridges that has just been turned into a lush private members' club, the builders would have got the plastering and painting finished in time for the opening night party. Either that or they would have killed him. Probably killed him. So it's lucky that the man the builders had to deal with was actually the genial former restaurant man-

ager Brian Clivaz; although maybe not lucky for Brian Clivaz in Trouble At the Top: Restoration Comedy (BBC2) - a sort of grander Changing Rooms, only without Carol Smillie grinning at Clivaz showed remarkable good humour in adversity. Missed deadlines, floods, no kitchen, no bar, no heating, no takings to show his investors: although Clivaz, caught between builders and backers, confessed that occasionally he plunged into the depths of despair", he mostly maintained a perkiness that must be the result of an irrepressibly optimistic disposition; if not that, then of ampheta-

Clivaz was finding that being screwed from both ends was painful at about the same time that Carrie and her chic Manhattan friends in Sex and the City (Channel 4) were wondering if threesomes were the most fun you could have in hed. They discovered what most of us have known for a while: that sex between two people can be a beautiful experience; providing, of course, you get between the right two people

BBC1 6.00am Business Breakfast (32760) 7.00 BBC Breakfast News (1) (34895) 9.00 Kilroy (T) (2420963)

9.45 Wipeout (3696168) 10.10 The Vanessa Show (T) (7319302) 10.55 News; Weather (T) (3979789) 11.00 Change That (3989166)

11.25 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (T) (3959925) 11.55 News; Weather (T) (7837963) 12.00 Call My Bluff (56128) 12.30pm Top Tip Challenge (r) (4403321) 12.55 The Weather Show (T) (53547321)

1.00 One O'Clock News (T) (17334) 1.30 Regional News; Weather (59476296) 1.40 Neighbours Karl prepares for his career change (T) (35516654) 2.05 Ironside (r) (5737499)

2.55 Through the Keyhole (r) (T) (1516514) 3.25 Children's BBC: Playdays (6373296) 3.45 Pocket Dragon Adventures (5928147) 3.55 Anthony Ant (9658079) 4.10 The All New Popeye Show (6893673) 4.20 Home Farm Twins (6646895) 4.35 Short Change (3957499) 5.00 Newsround (4612925) 5.10 Grange

Hili (9309012) 5.33 Rewind (T) (169383) 5.35 Neighbours (r) (F) (588128) 6.00 Six O'Clock News; Weather (T) (147) 6.30 Regional News Magazine (499)

7.00 Watchdog with Anne Robinson Consumer investigation show, putting some of the biggest names on the high street under the spotlight (1) (9296) 7.30 EastEnders Frank confides in Roy (1)

8.00 Harbour Lights A lessure development is threatened by poliution and Steve Blade suspects his brother may have something to do with it (T) (804876) 8.50 Points of View Viewers' opinions on

recent programmes (1) (722741) 9.00 Nine O'Clock News; Regional News; Weather (7) (5215) 9.30 Playing the Field Angie investigates at

alleged benefit traud (T) (273944) 10.20 They Think It's All Over Again Sports quiz (r) (1) (832128) 10.50 Question Time With Oons King and Lord Norman Tebbit (T) (9214037)



There's romance for Robert De Niro and Meryl Streep (11.55pm)

11.55 Falling in Love (1984) Romantic Crarca. FILM as committee who want Meryl Streep as commuters who meet on a train and are tempted to start an affair — despite both being married. Directed by Utu Grosbard (T) (679609) 1.35am Weather (1250345)

1.40 BBC News 24 (69650884)

10.50 What's in it for Me? (539321) 11.20 estion Time (T) (302963) 12.25em FILM: Falling in Love (T) (943093) 2.05 News (T) (9452971) 2.10 BBC News 24 (95591819)

7.00am Children's BBC Breekfast Show: Pingu 7.05 Teletubbles 7.30 Snorks 7.50 Blue Peter 8.20 Taz-Wana 8.40 Potka Dot Shorts 8.50 Wishing 9.00 9.00 Wise Up 9.10 Job Bank 9.20 Job Bank 9.30 Watch 9.45 Come Outside 10.90 Teletubbles 10.30 Storytime 10.45 The Experimenter 11.05 Space Ark 11.15 Zig Zag 11.35 Pathways of Belief 11.50 Mad About Music 12.10pm English File 12.30 Working Lunch 1.00 Wishing

1.10 War Walks The history of British and Irish warfare (r) (T) (41604692) 1.40 Hart-Davis on History The reputation of Richard III (35537147)

2.10 Awash with Colour (56397296) 2.40 News; Weather (T) (3141586) 2.45 Westminster (1) (45) 1760) 3.25 News, Weather (1) (4681012) 3.30 The Village (r) (9318944) 3.55 Kaye Advice show (9326963)

4.25 Ready, Steady, Cook (T) (6012708) 4.55 Esther Celibacy (1) (5097789) 5.30 Whose House? (876) 6.00 Star Traic Deep Space Nine Dax is kidnapped and accused of committing

6.45 Quantum Leap Sam becomes an English professor (r) (1) (828895) 7.30 Making It New documentary series set in the competitive world of design (1) (925)

8.00 Fred Dibnah's Industrial Age The nation's favourite steeplejack charts the development of the railways (1) (6586)



James May joins the team for the first of a new series (8.30pm)

8.30 Top Gear New series. Tiff Needell attempts to break the British record for fastest lap by a production car (T) (8321) 9.00 Red Dwarf Kryten sets up his own pirate TV station (1) (3857)

9.30 Horizon New evidence which suggests an asteroid could strike the Earth (T) (271586)

10.20 Tales of Tools Two artists who depend on the drill (T) (337383) 10.30 Newsnight (T) (280654)

11.15 Late Review With Allison Pearson and Tony Parsons (331012) 11.55 Skiing Forecast (528654) 12.00 Despatch Box (33567)

12.00 Despatch Box (33557)
12.30am BBC Learning Zone: Open University. Playing Sate 1.00 New York and Los Angeles 2.00 Further Education: The Key to the Application of Number 2 4.00 Teaching Film and Media 4.30 Marketing Movies 5.00 Teaching Today Special 5.45 Reflections on a Global Section 5.10 Respire the Landscape Screen 6.10 Reading the Landscape

7.30pm Fred Dibnah's Industrial Age (1) (925) 8.00-8.30 A Welsh Herbal (6586)

5.30am ITV Morning News (78050)

6.00 GMTV (5684321) 9.25 Trisha (T) (8816050) 10.30 This Morning (T) (44438944)

12.15pm HTV News (T) (4926586) 12.30 fTV Lunchtime News (T) (4405789) 12.55 Shortland Street Rachel prepares to

1.30 Home and Away Vinnie convinces himself that he has psychic powers (1) (35545166). 1.55 The Jerry Springer Show Outrageous American talk show (T) (1383370) 2.40 Wheel of Fortune (T) (5116578) 3.10 FTV News Headlines (T) (4660383)

3.15 HTV News (T) (4669654) 3.20 CITV: Mopatop's Shop (4680147) 3.30 The Adventures of Dewdle (9633760)
3.40 The Sylvester and Tweety Mysteries
(5914944) 3.50 Lavender Castle
(9644876) 4.05 Hey Arnold! (6005418)
4.30 Children's Ward (550)

5.00 Home and Away (r) (T) (4128) 5.30 WEST: Pressure Guide Magazine covering the region's entertainment, from theatre and arts to films and videos. Presented by Dave Mason and Vanessa

Bewley (483234)
5.30 WALES: Crazy Creatures The National Canine Defence League (1) (483234) 5.36 HTV Crimestoppers (573296) 5.58 HTV Weather (173586)

6.00 HTV News (1) (215) 6.30 ITV Evenling News; Weather (1) (895) 7.00 Emmerdale Andy's fate is decided (T)

7.30 WEST: We Can Work It Out Judy Finnigan and the team investigate how the roof left in on a wedding anniversary holiday (609) 7.30 WALES: Wales This Week Current

airs issues (609) 8.00 The Bill There's a general air of refief at Sun Hill now that Quinnan's on the mend but Garfield continues to blame Boutton for the incident (T) (8031)

9.00 Every Woman Knows a Secret New three-part drama series starring Slobhan Redmond (1/3) (1) (8895) 10.00 WEST: The Truth About Men

Celebrities including Alan Davies, Shane Richie, Les Dennis, Clive Sinclair, Sean Hughes and Michael Winner divulge their innermost thoughts (?) (8654)

10.00 WALES: In the Company of Strangers New series. Murder mystery, starring Robert Pugh (1/3) (8654) 11.00 ITV Nightly News; Weather (T) (717168) 11.20 HTV News and Weather (T) (762741) 11.30 WEST: A Trip in the Cosmic Buggy

Weston-super-Mare's pub and club scene (85031) .. 11.30 WALES: We Can Work it Out (85031) 12.00 WEST: Public Morals Corinne's boyfriend is arrested (f) (20093)

12.00 WALES: Tales from the Darkside All a Clone by the Telephone, starring Harry Anderson (20093)

12.30am The Jerry Springer Show (7355068) 1.15 Trainspotters New series. Licia Graves and Colin Rothbart deliver the latest sounds from the club scene in Northern Ireland and Southend (1/13) (607857) 2.15 Pop Down the Pub (9141567)

2.40 Box Office America Top 10 US movie releases (9536987) 3.10 Cybernet Computer news (47112109) 3.40 Murder. She Wrote A department store becomes a murder site just as it's about to be sold to a museum (6075345)

4.30 Coach Doris tries to get the team to 4.55 ITV Nightscreen Sehind the scenes of ITV programmes (3209161)

As HTV West except: 12.20-12.30pm Central News (7164654) 12.55 Home and Away (4413708) 1.25 The Jerry Springer Show (4078302)

2.10-2.40 Echo Point (56317050) 3.15-3.20 Central News; Weather (4669654) 5.30 Shortland Street (302) 6.00-6.30 Central News at Six (215)

11.20-11.30 Central News; Weather (762741) 11.30-12.35 Wonderful You (110079) 1.20-2.15am Highlander (4795109) 2.40 T in the Park (8106971) 3.35 Cybernet (25908172) 4.05 Central Jobfinder '99 (1707529)

5.20-5.30 Asian Eye (3211838) MESTECUNITY

As HTV West except: 12.15-12.27pm Westcountry News; Weathe (4926586)

12.27-12.30 likuminations (7172673) 12.55-1.25 Westcountry Lunchtime Live (4413708) 1.25 The Jerry Springer Show (4078302)

2.10-2.40 Home and Away (56317050) 3.15-3.20 Westcountry News; Weather (4669654) 4.59-5.00 Birthday People (7775505)

5.30 Dig it With Den (302) 6.00-6.30 Westcountry Live: Weather (215) 11.20-11.30 Westcountry News; Weather

11.30-12.30 Wonderful You (25505)

ALTIUMAN As HTV West except: 12.15pm-12.30 Meridian News: Weather (4926586) 5.30 Ridgeriders (215) 7.29-7.30 Meridian Weather (836963) 11.20 Meridian News; Weather (T) (414692) 11.35-12.30 Fitz (T) (797654) 5.00am-5.30

ear (11) (53118)

As HTV West except: 12.19om Anglia Air AS HIV West except: 12.19pm Anglia Air Watch (7183789) 12.20-12.30 Anglia News and Westher (7164654) 5.25-6.00 About Anglia (8985876) 6.00-6.30 Anglia News (1) (215) 11.19 Anglia Air Watch (111128) 11.20 Anglia News and Weather (1) (762741) 11.30 Crime Night (816296) 11.45-12.00 The Ticket

90 . 75 Starts: 5.55am Sesame Street (r) (20067166) 7.00 The Big Breakfast (67759925) 9.00 Ysgolion: History in Action (29019876) 9.20 Geographical Eye (29099012) 9.40 Place and People (42123383) 10.00 Middle English (9145895) 10.20 Fourways Parm (14962383) 10.30 Scientific Eye (51401944) 10.50 What the Papers Seid (19660483) 11.00 The Number Crew (40758215) 11.10 Pitch Fever (79064234) 11.30 Powerhouse (T) (68101505) 12.00 Sesame Street (T) (97930673) 12.30pm Planed Plant (T) (26715418) 1.00 The Afternoon Line (67752012) 1.30 The Cheltenham Festival (64989505) 4.30 Ricki Lake (I) (67093215) 5.00 Planed Plant (90078741) 5.30 Countdown (I) (67017895) 6.00 Newyddion 6 (I) (93333128) 6.10 Heno (T) (86816031) 7.00 Pobol y Cwm (T) (90098505) 7.30 Newyddion (T) (67094944) 8.00 Staymaker (T) (90074925) 8.30 Pam Fi Duer? (T) (90086760) 9.00 I dot (37245166) 10.00 Father Ted (T) (72550418) 10.35 Friends (T) (35648321) 11.05 The 11 O'Clock

Show (88361418) 11.35 King of the Hill (1) (92134383) 12.05am Gold Cup Day at Chettenham (71244529) 12.35 4 Later, Prey

(99661797) 1.30 Dispatches (T) (10134190) 2.05 Diwedd

CHANNEL 4

5.55am Sesame Street (4158418) 7.00 The Big Breakfast (27505)

9.00 Schools: History in Action (T) (4293925) 9.20 Geographical Eye Over Asia (T) (4213789) 9.40 Place and People (1433234) 10.00 Middle English (9624708) 10.20 Fourways Farm (5917050) 10.30 Scientific Eye (1437654) 10.50 What the Papers Said (8707925) 11.00 The Number Crew (T) (9390296) 11.10 Pitch Fever (3140128) 11.30 Powerhouse (9418)

12.00 Sesame Street (T) (72166)

12.30pm Bewitched (r) (T) (90050) 1.00 The Afternoon Line Racing tips (20692) 1.30 The Cheltenham Festival Brough Scott introduces live action on Gold Cup day, domprising the 2.00 Efite Racing Club Triumph Hurdle, 2.35 Bonusprint Stayers' Hurdle, 3.15 Tote Cheltenham Gold Cup Chase and the 3.55 Christie's Foxhunter Chase Challenge (741857)

4.30 Countdown (1) (3974166) 4.55 Ricki Lake (T) (5082857) 5.30 Pet Rescue (T) (944)

6.00 Friends Ross makes the big mistake of letting Rachel in on his most secret sexual fantasy (r) (T) (857)

6.30 Hollyoaks Tony decides to make more of an effort (1) (437) 7.00 Channel 4 News; Weather (1) (705505) 7.55 Bodyscapes (803857)

8.00 Gold Cup Day at Cheltenha Highlights of the prestigious event (1654)

8.30 Wild Tales The continuing survival of crocodiles and alligators (1) (4019)

9.00 Ramsay's Bottling Point Gordon
Ramsay prepares a banquet for 650
people at the Palace of Versailles on the

eve of the World Cup (4/5) (T) (8925) 9.30 Dispatches A report revealing shocking allegations that the police have maniputated crime figures (1) (87586)



Dennis Franz returns as the gritty detective Andy Sipowicz (10pm)

10.00 NYPD Blue New series. The team investigate the murder of a hotel magnate's son (T) (6296) 11.00 The 11 O'Clock Show (3470)

11.30 Ally McBeal Fish delegales Ally, Cage and Georgia to a case with a man who wants to marry two women (r) (1) (23147) 12.30am 4 Later Introduction; Prey (7416613) 1.25 Vids Offbeat video review (9177451) 2.00 Late Toom: Everybody's Pregnant Animation (8450567)

2.10 NYPD Blue Simone and Sipowicz investigate a woman's claim that he mentally disabled daughter was raped. while a strange character is thought to be involved in murder (r) (T) (7810074) 3.00 St Elsewhere Westphall renews an old friendship (r) (T) (8047529) 3.50 Poor Cow (1967) Ken Loach's kitchen-

sink drama about a young mother living in squalor with her good-for-nothing husband (T) (539426) 5.30 Britain at War (r) (4531109)

7.30 Milkshake! (2380505)

11.10 Leeza (5319447)

6.00am 5 News and Sport Headline round-up (8753186) 7.00 WideWorld Part 20. The benefits of sport and exercise (r) (1) (8865079)

CHANNEL 5

7.35 Wirmzie's House (r): 5 News Update (4369234) 8.00 Havakazoo (r) (2582857)

8.30 Dappledown Farm (r); 5 News Update

9.00 Holiday Park The day of Jane's party arrives but the whole event is threatened by an unwelcome visitor (r) (2505708) 9.30 The Oprah Winfrey Show (r) (4180055) 10.20 Sunset Beach Francesca plots against Cole and Caitlin (T) (3338418)

12-00 5 News at Noon (T) (2586944) 12.30pm Family Affairs Pete plans to get his own back on Dave (r) (T); 5 News Update

1.00 The Bold and the Beautiful Clarke reveals all to Sally (T) (8857050) 1.30 The Roseanne Show Outrageous chat

with the outspoken comedian (r); 5 News Update (1962437) 2.00 100 Per Cent Gold (9841166) 2.30 Good Afternoon An hour of lessure. titestyle and documentary, featuring real-life soap Liverpool Murrs, Rob Butler's word game Cryptogram and Selling the Family Silver, 5 News Update

3.30 The Pursuit of DB Cooper (TVM 1981) Fact-based thriller, starring Treat Williams as the crook who held a plane to ransom and escaped by parachute with more than \$200,000. Robert Duvall co-stars. Directed by Roger Spotsswoode

(8665147) 5.25 5 News (41842906) 5.30 100 Per Cent (2188234)

6.00 5 News: Weather (2185147) 6.30 Family Affairs Dave tries to get the Denter of Pere (1) (21/64)

7.00 European Cup Winners' Cup Valerenga v Chelsea (kick-off 7.30pm). Full coverage of the Cup Winners' Cup quarter-final second-leg in Oslo Subsequent programmes subject to change (T) (50579760)

9.35 Magnum Force (1973) Clini Eastwood, reprising his role as the maverick San Francisco police inspector "Dirty" Harry Callahan, upsets his superiors once more by setting out to hunt down a vigitante group responsible for cold-bloodedly murdering the city's most wanted criminals. Action thriller, co-staming Hal Holbrook, David Sout, Mitchell Ryan and Robert Unich. Directed by Ted Post (T) (14140654)

11.45 Red Shoe Diaries A man tries to save his doomed marriage (5699741) 12.20am The Pepsi Chart With Steps performing their latest single, Better Best

Forgotten (9739364) 12.50 The Jack Docherty Show With Kaye Wragg (8926567) 1.30 Live and Dangerous The all-night sports magazine featuring Dutch and Argentine football (67058074)

4.40 Prisoner: Cell Block H Lou vows to take revenge on Marl (7876906) 5.30 100 Per Cent (r) (8477513)

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SATELLITE, CABLE AND DIGITAL

• For further listings see Saturday's Vision SKY ONE

2.00 mm Court Duckuss (45925) 7.30 Christware, (33316) 8.30 Hollywood Squares (67012) 9.00 Sally Jessy Rephael (10429) 10.00 Cypah Winfray (5394) 11.00 Guari (73708) 12.00 Jenny Jones (42437) 1.00pm Med About You (44298) 1.30 Joopanty (22673) 2.90 Sally Jessy Rephael (35050) 3.00 Jenny Jones (57985) 4.00 Guary (36302) 8.09 Sall Teck Voyager (3395) 8.00 America: Dumbael Christian (6079) 6.30 Droam Team (8331) 7.00 The Simpsons (1286) 7.30 The Simpsons (5215) 8.00 America s Dumbael Camerials Singcons (1296) 7,300 The Singsons (5215) 8,60 America's Dumbest Camerals (1924) 8,30 World's Werdest TV (9979) 9,00 Fronds (32586, 9,30 ER (63215) 10,30 Ocialm Team (379 31) 11,30 Star Tiest (1998) 183126; 12,30mm The Commistication (18018) 1,30 Long Puly (7009141)

SKY BOX OFFICE Sky's pay-per-view movie charmels. To wew any spin in legitione 0990 800838 Sky BCA CHERCE 1 (Transponder 51)

Fallen (1998) Sky BOX OFFICE 2 (Transponder 60) Amigtad (1997) SKY BOX OFFICE 3 (Transponder 59) Plubber (1997) Starship Troopers (1997) SKY 9GX OFFICE 4 (Transponder 95) Butcher Boy (1997) SKY PREMIER

6.00stn Fly Autry Home (1995) (2575) 8.00 Charle's Chost Stay (1994) [4944] 10.00 it Takes Two (1989) (25760) 12.00 The Employa Footon Mose (2-147) 1.00pm Ferrors (4285) (4285) 2.00 Fly Austy Home (1996) (5741) 4.00 Charlier Ghost Story (1994) (1994) (1994) 5.30 it Takes Two (1988) (5740) 7.20 library Two (4-16) 6.30 Selected (1997) (2207202) 10.40 The Accessed (1997) (2207202) 10.40 The Accessed (1988) (1004)075 12.00pm Embrard of the Control of the Accessed (1988) (1004)075 12.00pm Embrard of the Accessed (1988) (1004)075 12.00pm Embrard of the Accessed (1988) (1004)075 12.00pm Embrard of the Accessed (1988) (1905)075 12.00pm Embrard of the Accessed (1988) (1986) (1987) 2.30 Serentees (1995) (1962) (1973) 2.30 Serentees (1995) (1962) (1973 Parati 1.00cm Ferrics Falans

SKY MOVIEMAX 5.25cm Destroy AD Monsters (1968) 9-13237UR: 7.00 Buck and the Magic Braucket (1996) #55521 9.00 And Suby Makes Six (1979) (48166) 11.00 Snow-board Academy (1987) (71234) 1.00 Suck and the Magic Bracelet (1996) (17654) 3.00 And Beby Makes Six (1979) (87944) 5.00 Challeugers (1989) (18019) 7.00 Snowboard Academy (1897) (50557) 9.00 Assunder (1986) (82079) 11.00 Medusa's Child: Part Two (1987) (50557) 9.00 Assunder (1986) (82079) 11.00 Medusa's Child: Part Two (1987) (50551) 12.35am Mother, May 1 Skep with Danger (1986) (99567) 2.10 Market A Trus Story (1985) (123364) 4.05 Advan-alist Foar (198 Rush (1985) (6274616)

SKY CINEMA AnOpet A Star is Born (1927) (7965147) 6.00 From the Terrace (1960) (2948692) 8.30 J Married a Monator from Outer Space (1963) (9461215) 10.00 Around the World in 80 Days (1966) (1296396) 12.20am Sudden Impact (1963) (71:9074) 2.20 Town on Trist (1966) (2234635) 4.05 The Gallant Hours (1990)

FILMFOUR 6.00pm A Feast at Michight (1994) (1985/49) 7.50 The Date (2610/789) 8.00 Like Water for Chocolate (1992) (6341383) 9.55 Includence (5471963) 10.09 La Grande Bourte (1992) (31652012) 12.156m Jamon Jamon (1992) (9455513) 1.50 Don't Look Now (1973) (6341529) 3.60 The Shining (1980) (31123155) 6.00 Close

TNT 9.00pm The Philadelphia Story (1940) (53185215; 11.15 To Heve and Have Not (1944) (74(9443) 1.15em The Fast (1958) (90261854) 3.30 The Day They Robbed the Bank of England (1960) (22316625) 5.00 Close SKY SPORTS 1

SKY SPORTS 1

7.00am Sparts Centre 7.15 Wrestling 8.15 Years On Sty Sports 9.00 Reading-News 9.30 Aerobas 9.00 Reading-News 9.30 Aerobas 9.00 World Poly 12.00 Aerobas 12.30pm Table Terms 12.00 Aerobas 12.30pm Suggest More Sport 5.00 Wrestlers 2.00 World More Sport 5.00 Wrestlers 9.00 Sparts Centre 6.30 Lasgue Review 7.00 What A Weekend 7.30 Indicate the PGA Tour 8.00 Americs 9.00 Sparts Footbel 7.00 Sports 11.00 Trans World Sport 12.00 Sports 11.00 Trans World Sport 12.00 Sports Corpe 12.15am You're On Sky Sports 1.00 Losgue Review 1.30 What A Weekend 2.00 Sports Footbel 3.00 Trans World Sport 4.00 Sports Carbe 4.18 Close

SKY SPORTS 2

7.00am Aerobics 7.30 Spons Centre 7.45
Racing News 8.15 Unbellevible Sports
8.45 Spons Centre 9.06 Fish TV 9.30 Golf
Edits 12.30pm Rugby League World 2.00
Watersports World 3.00 Table Tenne 4.00
World Pool League 5.00 League Revibe
6.30 Furbol Mundiet 9.00 What A Wackend
8.30 Formula Times 7.00 Trans World Sport
8.00 League Review, 8.30 Fishol Mundiet
9.00 Line US Golf 11.00 Table Terrie 12.00
Formula Three 12.30am loe Hockey 3.00
Sports Centre 3.15 Close SKY SPORTS 3

12.00mm Wrestling 1.00pm Fish TV 2.00 FA Cup Final Classics 3.30 Rugby League World 5.00 Survival of the Filtest 5.30 Insude the PGA Your 6.00 Table Tennis 7.00 Futbol Charlants Football Scrapbook 17.30 Close EUROSPORT

7:30am Dog Sied Reeing 8:00 Carl 9:30 Sic-Jumping 10:00 Live Sic-Jumping 12:00 Molercycling 12:30pm Motocross 1:00 Snowboarding 1:30 Snowled 4:00 Sic-Jumping 5:30 That 6:30 Recing Line 7:30 Boxing 8:30 Live Football 10:15 Football 11:30 Recing Line 12:30am Close UK GOLD

7.00am Crosscads 7.30 Neighbours 7.58 EastFrident 8.30 The SR 9.30 Phote and Projudes 10.30 Rhods 11.00 Dellas 11.55 Neighbours 12.25pm EastEnders 1.00 Prejudice 10.20 Rhoda 11.00 Delias 11.55 Neighbours 12.25pm EastEnders 1.00 Bugs 2.00 Delias 2.55 The Bit 3.55 EastEnders 4.30 Rhoda 5.00 All Creatures Gradi and Smell 6.00 Dynasty 7.00 Ever Decreasing Circles 7.40 Deor's Army 8.20 The Britas Empire 9.00 The Young Ones 9.40 Bottom 10.20 Common as Muck 11.30 The Bit 12.30em Blackadder Goes Forth 1.00 French and Saunders 1.40 Dengened 2.45 Schiefshop GRANADA PLUS 6.00 pm Within These Wals 7.00 Holding the Fort 7.30 Odd Counts 8.00 Helleluigh 8.90 The Many Wives of Potrick 9.00 Classic Coronation Street 9.30 Emmerciale Farm 19.00 Upstans, Downstains 11.00 The Geoffe Touch 12.00 Classic Coronation Street 12.30 pm Emmerciale Farm 1.00 The Many Wives of Patrick 1.30 Me and My Gift 2.00 Upstains, Downstains 8.00 The Love Boat 4.00 The Professionals 8.00 Hart To Hart 8.80 Emmerciale Farm 6.30 Classic

Robin Williams stars as an inventive professor in Disney's rollercoaster comic adventure Fluibber (Sky Box Office 3)

Coronation Street 7.00 The Professionals 8.00 The Benny Hill Show 8.00 The Sweensy 10.00 Hate and Pace 10.30 Wheeltoppers and Shuntlers' Social Club 11.00 Granada Man and Molors **CARLTON SELECT**

5.00pm: Whet's Cocking? 5.30 Gridock 8.00 My Two Wives 8.30 Cur House 7.00 Shine On, Harvey Moon 8.00 The Carlion London Restaurant Awards 1999 9.00 St Beawires 10.00 Tales from the Hollywood Hills 11.00 Hill Street Blues 12.00 My Two Wives 12.30am Gndlock 1.00 Close DISNEY CHANNEL 8.00em Gumini Bears 8.25 Classic Toons 6.35 Tale Spin 7.00 Classic Toons 7.10 Aladdin 7.35 101 Delmetens 8.00 Goof Troop 8.25 Classic Toons 8.45 Naw Winnie

the Pools 2.00 Adventures of Spoil 9.05

Animal Shaff 8.15 Pocket Dragons 9.35
Bear in the Big Blue House 9.55 Toolstonich
Family 10.00 Blae Star 10.10 Roste and Jim
10.30 Big Carege 10.45 PB and J Otte
11.00 Sessine Street 12.00 The Adventures
of Spot 12.05pm Animal Shaff 12.15

Pocket Dragons 12.30 Bear in the Big Blue House 12.55 Toothbrush Family 1.00 Bec Size 1.10 Rosie and Jim 1.30 Big Gerage 1.45 PB and J Otter 2.00 New Winne the Pooh 2.30 Quack Pack 3.00 Listle Marmad 3.30 Art Attack 4.00 101 Delmatisms 4.30 Hercules: The TV Show 5.00 Recess 5.15 Hercules: The TV Show Sure Hacess a.na Papper Ann 5.30 Smith Guy 6.00 Teen Angel 7.00 RUM: The Brane Little Toester to the Residue (1997) 8.15 Honey ! Shunk, the Kirls: The TV Show 8.00 Dinzseurs 10.00 Home Improvemen The Wonder Years 11.00 Dr Medicine Woman 12.00 Close

FOX KIDS NETWORK 6.00am Adventures of Dodo 6.05 Power Rangers Turbo 6.55 Spiderman 7.20 Oggy and the Coderosches 7.30 Oankey Kong Country 8.00 Herp Turtles. The Next Mutation 8.25 The Incredible Hull. 8.50 Iron

Man 9.15 Fantasho Four 9.40 X-Men 10.05 son at a ransascrour sum Avent Nucleon Casper 10.35 Copy and the Cockroaches 10.35 EeldStravegenza 11.05 Bobby's World 11.30 Life with Louis 11.35 Home to Rent 12.05pm Denns and Grassher 12.30 Donkey Kong Country 1.00 Mowgle The

6,00em Rocko's Modern Life 6.30 Bruno the Kid 7.00 CatDog 7.30 Rugrats 8.00 The Wild Thomberny 8.30 Arthur 9.00 Children's 88C 19.00 Wende's House 10.30 Papa Besver Stones 11.00 The Magic School Bus 11.30 PB Besv/Budgie the Little Helicopter/Animal Antics/Family Ness 12.00 Rugrats 12.30pm Blue's Clues 1,00 Bananes in Pyjames 1,30 Little Bear Stones 2,00 Paddington Bear etc 2,30

BRAVO

NICKELODEON

8.00pm Mentel 12m 9.00 Extreme Championship Winsting 9.30 Cops 10.00 The Late Lounge Yd.30 Erotic Confessions 11.00 FILM: The Thomas Crown Affeir (1968) 1.00mm Erotic Confessions 1.30 11.00 Fills: The Increas Crown and 1.30 The Late Lounge 2.00 Maria! Law 3.00 Fills: Adventures of a Plumber's Maix (1978) 5.00 Edemic Champonship Whesting 5.30 Cops 6.00 Close PARAMOUNT COMEDY 7.00pm Jenny 7.30 Grace Under Fire 8.00 Ellen 8.30 Spin Cny 9.00 Drop the Dead Donkey 9.30 Whose Line is if Anyway/ 10.00 Faster 10.30 Cheers 11.00 Seinfeld

Rejects 6.30 Moesha 7.00 Close

Men 2.45 Fertiasic Four 3.10 X-Men 3.30 X-Press 3.35 Spidermen 4.00 Goosebum ps 4.25 Hero Turles The Ned Mutation 4.50 Capper 5.00 Dennis and Gnasher

11.30 The Lany Sanders Show 12.00 Lae Night with David Letterman 1.00em 12:0 1.30 Fronding 2.00 Dr Katz 2.30 Tos and 1.30 Fronding 2.00 Dr Katz 2.30 Tos and Castello 4.00 Close THE SCHFI CHANNEL SATELLITE: 8pm-MIDNIGHT ONLY 7-30em Bloomberg Information Television 8.00 Signings Specal 9.00 Buck Rogers in the 25th Century 10.00 Quantum Leap 11.00 Den Studenter 11.20 The Ray Bradbury Theatre 12.00 The Twilight Zone 1.00pm Tales of the Unexpected 2.00 Amazing Stories 2.30 Mysteries, Magic and Meracles

3.00 Buck Rogers in the 25th Century 4.00 3.00 Buck Rogers in the 25th Century 4.00 The Increatible Hull's 5.00 Sightings Special 6.00 Time Trait 7.00 Quantum Leap 8.00 PSI Factor: Chronicles of the Paramornal 9.00 Babyton 5 10.00 FBLM: Sheeping Dogs (1997) 12.00 Twin Peaks 1.00am FILM: Paint Me a Murder (1984) 2.30 The 1wilight Zone 3.00 Dark Stactows 3.30 Dark Shactows 4.00 Close HOME & LEISURE

8.00am Today's Gournet 8.30 Yan Can Cook — The Bed of Asia 7.00 Homemaker 7.30 Period Rooms 8.00 Wedding Story 8.30 A Baby Story 9.00 Simply Paining 9.30 The Great Gardening Plot 10.00 Instant Gardens 10.30 Two's County Cooking 11.00 The Dicaman 11.25 The Home and Lessue House 11.30 Rex Hura Fishing Adventures 12.00 Our House Down Index 12.30mm Amouses, Trad 1.00 Our Under 12.30pm Ankques Trail 1.00 Out House 1.30 Home Sawy 2.00 New Yankee Workshop 2.30 Home Again with Bob Vita 3.00 This Old House with Steve and Norm 2.30 Chartie West Fishing

DISCOVERY 4.00pm Rex Hunt Fishing Adventures 4.30 4.00pm Nor Hurr Instruct Autoriums 4.30 The Car Show \$.00 Higher 6.00 Widele SOS 8.30 Untarned Ainca 7.30 Futureworld 8.00 Discover Magazine 8.00 Science Frontiers 8.00 Hoover Dam 11.00 Forensc Detectives 12.00 The Greet Egyptiens 1.00em Hitler 2.00 Close ANIMAL PLANET

12,00cm The New Advertures of Black Beauty 12.30pm Hollywood Salan 1.30 Crocodio Hunter 2.00 Wildig ER 2.30 Jack Henna's Animal Adventures 4.30 Animal Doctor 5.00 Per Rescue 5.30 Crocodile Hunter 6.00 New Adventures of Cocooffe Hunter 6.00 New Adventures of Back Beauty 6.30 Lassio 7.00 Rediscovery of the World 8.00 Annual Doctor 8.30 Cousins Boneath the Stan 9.30 Emergency yets 10.00 Deadly Australians 10.30 The Big Annual Show 11.00 Wild Rescuss 11.30 Emergency Vets 12.00 Close

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC 7.00mm Scarlet Sizes 7.30 Killer Whales of 7 Jupier Scare Store 7 Jan Neer Wheels of the Fjord 8,00 in the Land of the Grazdes 9.00 Extreme Earth Land of Fire and Ice 9.30 Extreme Earth Load Earth 10.00 Mystery of the Inca Murminy 10.30 Maya Mysteries 11,00 Reef at Res. Mohernmed

CARLTON FOOD

9.80em Food Nelwork Daily 9.30 Coxon's Sichen College 10.00 Chel for a Day 10.30 First Teste 11.00 Worrall Thompson Cooks 11.30 A Sace of the Action 12.00 Food Network Daily 12.30pm Food Factory 1.00 Coxon's Kitchen College 1.30 The Grean Gournel 2.00 The Cookshop 2.30 Food Network Daily 3.00 Scotland's Larder 3.30 A Silos of the Action 4.00 From the Ground 10 A 30 Intension Kinchen 5 00 Close 1 Up 4.30 Indian Kachen 5.00 Close

LIVING 6.00am Thy and Crew 6.20 Ten Plus Two 6.40 Philbert the Fing 6.45 Greedysturus and the Geng 6.50 Polla Dol Shorts 7.00 Practical Peterting 7.05 Professor Bubble 7.30 Cadiou 7.35 Bug Alert 7.55 Practical 7.30 Cadou 7.35 Bug Aleri 7.35 Practical Parenting 8.00 Barrey and Finends 8.25 Babaloos 8.30 Tiny fales 8.35 Tiny and Crew 8.50 Practical Parenting 9.00 Special Babies 9.30 The Rosearine Show 10.00 The Jerry Springer Show 10.50 Maury Povich 11.40 Brookside 12.10pm Triough the Keyhole 12.40 Rescue 911 1.10 Beyond Betel Fact or Fiction 1.40 Maury Povich 2.30 Special Beblies 3.00 Limits Room 3.50 Michael Cole 4.40 Through the Keyhole 5. 10 The Heat is On 5.40 Ready. Steady, Cook 6.15 The Jerry Springer Show 7.05 Rescue 911 7.35 Ammal Rescue 8.00 7.05 Rescue 911 7.35 Animal Rescue 8.00 Administration Junkles 9.00 FILM: Love M

ZEE TV 5.00am Habya Tene Ghar Vesya 5.30 Hr Thi Hit Hai 6.00 Hero Kal Asi Au 6.30 Awaz Thi Ht Hai 6.00 Hero Kal Asi Au 6.30 Awaz Nayee Andez Wohl 7.00 Fath. Sababa 7.30 News 8.00 Karbon Durnya 8.30 Tare 9.00 Zanjeeren 9.30 Zee Health Show 10.00 Kaun Sa Ristria 11.00 Fot Luch 11.30 Parampera 12.00 FILM 3.00pai Bangia Tv. Nidheteer Rat 3.30 Public Demand 4.00 Albar Birbal 4.30 Fairdeal Antaistein 5.30 Teacher 8.00 Pop Time 8.30 Hip Hip Humay 7.00 Gudgudee 7.30 Conemage 8.00 News 8.30 Citahar Aur Netat 9.00 Hastaten 9.30 Burst 2 10.30 X.Zone 11.00 Majuhe Cheand Circhys 12.00 News 12.90 Burst 2 10.30 X.Zone 11.00 Majuhe Cheand Circhys 12.00 News 12.90 Burst 2 ee Burstess Show 1.00 Zee Bangia 1.30 Roshel 2.00 FILM: Hindi Movie 4.30 Tarmi An Hour With

and the second second



ATHLETICS 48

Radcliffe returns to Balmoral in defence of her five-mile title

SPORT

RUGBY UNION 51

Villepreux tries to make light of clash against England



THURSDAY MARCH 18 1999

Vialli warms to Valerenga task

Chelsea seek more than cold comfort

FROM KEVIN McCarra in oslo

VALERENGA

CHELSEA

tion by Robbie Fowler led him

to appear to strike the Liverpool forward three weeks ago.

When the pressure is on you can get down about it or you

can get a boost from the fact

that everyone is looking at

you, as Graeme has done,"

Le Saux and Fowler should

be named today in the

England squad for the match

against Poland, but a date for

the FA hearing on their

misconduct charges is still to

be set. "The longer it takes, the better," Vialli said, "because in

two or three weeks no one will

remember it." He trusts, in

particular, that his left back

can master the art of forget-

Vialli said.

IT IS a peculiar kind of winter break that sees men seeking out cold instead of chasing the sun. Nonetheless, as they landed in Oslo, there was satisfaction for Chelsea in the sight of the banks of snow that had been cleared from the run-ways. This is a club in need of a change of scene after the defeats by Manchester United in the FA Cup and West Ham United in the FA Carling Prem-

The trip to a bracingly chilly Oslo could be refreshing in itself, but Chelsea will be glad, above all, of another spell in the lenient land of the Cup Winners' Cup. After a 3-0 win for Gianluca Vialli's team in the first leg at Stamford Bridge, the tie with Valerenga is already over. The holders will face their first severe test in the semi-finals, in which, in all probability, they will meet Lazio, Lokomotiv Moscow or Real Mallorca.

Only the margin of victory over Valerenga remains to be debated and Vialli, the playermanager, addressed more farreaching concerns yesterday. He is heartened by the emphatic form shown by Graeme Le Saux since apparent provoca-



TIMES

TWO

"I hope that Graeme doesn't think in the future that it would be better for him to move abroad." Vialli said. "I hope he sticks with English football and doesn't get fed up with the situation around him." Another step towards retaining the Cup Winners'
Cup should remind Le Saux of the advantages of staying pre-cisely where he is.

Decisions about this trip laid bare Vialli's attitude to it. Marcel Desailly and Frank Leboeuf, the centre backs, were not in the party, but Vialli could hardly pretend that the pair were gravely injured when they are virtual ly certain to be in action at the weekend. "If this had been the final they would both be with us," he said. "We have an important match at Aston Villa on Sunday and I did not want

to risk them." The weather is far less hostile than that encountered by Chelsea in Tromso last season, but these are still not the conditions for men such as Desailly and Leboeuf to expose their aches and pains. even if undersoil heating at the Ullevaal Stadium will give the players a sure surface.

With the Norwegian season yet to begin, Valerenga remain at a disadvantage despite being managed by Egil Olsen, whose method of direct play is dreaded even more than it is

Ginola on target. Venables owed £2m. Attético halt Italians.

denounced, John Carew, the powerful centre forward, is the

wish to excel. Over the past week, with the departure from the FA Cup and the harm done to their prospects of winning the Premiership, a little hope has seeped out of them. "We need a bit more determination in both boxes. when we have the chance to score and when we are having to defend to get a result," Vialli

It is the claiming of goals that is the greater problem. Since the victory over Valerenga a formight ago, Chelsea have not scored in three matches. They are more dependent than they would wish on Tore Andre Flo, who has not scored since December 26. Injury has taken up much of the intervening period and, after a comeback at the end of last month, sharpness has been just out of reach.

Flo, with the distraction of imminent fatherhood at the end of this month, may be left out this evening as Vialli presses himself into service. The match itself should be a lull before the season enters that phase in which high promise teeters on the edge of failure. CHELSEA (possible, 4-4-2): E De Goey — A Ferrer, M Duberry, B Lambourde, G Le Saux — D Petrescu, J Morris, D Wise, C Babayaro — G Vialit, G Zola.

VALERENGA (possible, 4-5-1) M Kaven — T Bernisen, K Harakisen, F kjoiner, H Tran — K Kaase, J Waltin, B Levernes, D Riisnaes, T Hou — J Carew

TELEVISION: Channel 5, from

HERBIE HIDE, the World

Boxing Organisation (WBO)

heavyweight champion, yes-

terday issued a challenge to Lennox Lewis, the World Box-

ing Council (WBC) champion,

to face him for the two belts.

Hide, who had called a

press conference to publicise

his bout against Orlin Norris

at the Albert Hall on April 3.

did not think the New York

contest between Lewis and

Evander Holyfield was contro-

versial. Lewis did not impress

him. "I think the fight was a

draw," Hide said. "Holyfield

looked 36 going on 80 years old. I don't think any of them

deserved to win because none

of them tried that hard and

"Lewis didn't know he was

fighting a shadow of a man.

were appalling.

By Alan Lee

McCoy banned again

RACING CORRESPONDENT tee and this will trigger a second trip to Portman Square.

Richard Dunwoody has always longed to ride another horse to lift spirits and rule dreams in his native Ireland. He seeks it as a fitting climax to a majestic career and today. aged 35 and with a right arm that refuses to heal, he has his

If Florida Pearl justifies the floods of Irish money that have established him as 2-1 favourite for a compelling Gold Cup, Durtwoody will be deified in his homeland. For that to happen, though, horse and jockey must overcome the most competitive field in

Dunwoody, who still needs daily physiotherapy, speaks passionately of the Irish lust for equine heroes and he

knows Florida Pearl has the credentials for the role. But in a race that has captured public imagination like no Gold Cup since Desert Orchid won, ten years ago, there are many al-

Looks Like Trouble, ridden by Paul Carberry, clears the last fence in copybook style before galloping away up the hill to win the the Royal & Sun Alliance Chase by a distance on another day of glorious sunshine at Cheltenham. Photograph: Julian Herbert/Allsport

ternative winners.

Rob Hartnett, spokesman for the Tote, calls it "the most eagerly awaited race in years" and reports that his firm alone has already taken more than E400,000 in ante-post bets. The horse that would be the

Tote's biggest loser is the hope of Herefordshire, Tecton Mill. There is also at least one more potential Irish winner. Dorans Pride, third in the last two runnings. Imperial Call, winner in 1996, and last year's hero. Cool Dawn, have both been withdrawn as has Earth Summit, winner of the Grand

Gold Cup preview, page 52 Simon Barnes, page 53

National last April

MORSE

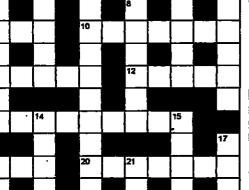
Getting any business started with e-commerce applications requires the skills and support of more than one company.

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No 1668

ACROSS

1 Manner of speaking (8) 5 Light (eg hair): fine (weather) 9 Tall (5)

10 Heavy (eg responsibility) (7) 11 Frame (of car) (7) 12 Given nothing to eat (5) 13 Non-indulgent promotion of welfare (5.4)

18 Longest Iberian river (5) 20 Harvesting the sea (7) 22 Condition (attached) (7) 23 Thick-skinned beast (5) 24 Twilight (4) 25 Belief: side (table) (8)

DOWN

I Principle of action; insurance occument (6) 2 Bend (light-ray) (7) 3 Bottomless pit (5) 4 (MP) change sides (5.3.5)

6 Cold and distant (5) 7 Dwell (6) 8 Gas-cooker setting scale (6) 14 (Remark) kept to oneself (6) 15 Omission of vowel (7)

16 Unintelligent (6) 17 Pay no attention to (6) 19 Sheen; comment in margin

21 A scrap: cut into tiny bits (5)

■ SOLUTION TO NO 1667 ACROSS: 1 Verbal 4 Bleed 8 Sound 9 Penguin 10 Brioche 11 Defy 12 Dew 14 Exert 15 Ogled 18 Ego 20 Junk 22 Asks out 24 Martinu 25 Drown 26 Style 27 Gyrate DOWN: 1 Visible 2 Routine 3 Abdicate 4 Band 5 Elude 6 Dingy 7 Speed 13 Workaday 16 Leonora 17 Detente

19 Oakum 20 James 21 Nervy 23 Cite

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BY SRIKUMAR SEN, BOXING CORRESPONDENT

Hide believes Lewis result was fair

Holyfield was shot. People should be blaming Lewis: why didn't he knock him out? He didn't deserve to win because he lost his bottle."

TONY McCoy, the champion National Hunt jockey, who

rides Unsinkable Boxer in the

Tote Gold Cup today, was

banned for four days by the

Cheltenham stewards yester-

day for incorrect use of the whip as he drove Majadou to

a 16-length victory in the Mild-

McCoy, who had picked up

a two-day suspension for mis-

use of the whip at Taunton on

Monday, will be out of action on all racing days from March 24-30. He was referred to the

Jockey Club last November

when the disciplinary commit-

tee imposed an 18-day ban, of which four were deferred. In

January, he was again found

in breach of whip rules, bring-

ing the deferred part of the sus-

McCoy has now totted up a

further eight days of bans

since his last appearance be-fore the disciplinary commit-

pension into effect.

may of Flete Challenge Cup.

Frank Warren, Hide's promoter, believed Hide was capable of beating Lewis and that they should meet after Lewis had won his rematch with Holyfield. That fight could go on in the UK and fill up a football stadium," he said. "For anyone to be declared the undisputed champion of the world he must hold four

Warren said that neutral judges could solve the problems of controversial decisions. "I wouldn't say she |the woman judge in the Lewis

bout should be shot, because I speak from experience that that is painful, but she did not do a proper job," he said. against



Hide not impressed.

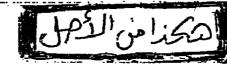
ing for neutral judges for the contest at the Albert Hall. The New York State Attornev General's office has asked Larry O'Connell, the English judge who scored the Lewis-Holyfield contest a draw, to fly to America tomorrow to answer questions about the

judging fights. Officials should be neutral but should not come from the comments

where the boxers are from."

Warren said he would be ask-

bout. The British Boxing Board of Control has informed them that O'Connell will not be present because of business pressures. John Morris, the board secretary, has asked the State Attorney to fax the questions and, if required. O'Connell will answer them in an affidavit.



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